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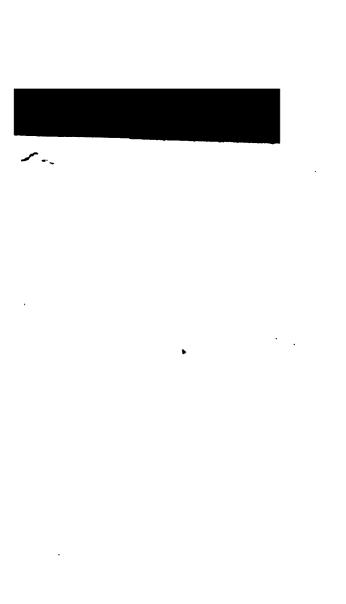
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IN THE LAND OF MARVELS



IN THE LAND OF MARVELS

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"Then said the Night-Cap, 'Be of good cheer, and I will help thee." She then touched a tall tree with one of the strings, and instantly a lordly eastle stood before them."—Page 335.

IN THE LAND OF MARVELS

FOLK-TALES FROM AUSTRIA AND BOHEMIA

BY THEODOR VERNALEKEN

With Preface

By E. JOHNSON, M.A.

ILLUSTRATED EDITION

*Tradition is, as it were, the poetic still life of humanity, cointly unfolding that through all the struggles and changes of the times. Not in angitude of method in least and super-stition, it units periods the most remote, and a thousand years is often to her but as yeareday and to-day."—Schwartz.

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PREFACE.

THE following collection of folk-tales from Lower Austria and Bohemia was made by Prof. Vernaleken, who wrote them down faithfully from word of mouth, and published them as a sort of supplement to the *Children's and Household Stories* of the Brothers Grimm, which were derived mostly from North-Western Germany.

As these excursions into the land of marvels not only delight the imagination of youthful readers, but afford rich material to the scientific student of the history of the human spirit, a few words upon this subject may not be out of place in introducing the volume to English readers.

The Märchen or folk-tale is a form of oral tradition which has come down from lip to lip from the remotest antiquity; borne in olden times in the memory of bards or reciters, and now preserved as a house-lore among the peasantry of Europe. In Greece and Albania, in Austria and Bohemia, in the Italian and German Tyrol as in Northern Germany, the same picture rises before us—the woman, spindle in hand, surrounded L.

eager audience of young and old, while she spins the endless 'yarn' of fancy, of which the busy operation of her fingers may seem to be symbolical. Schneller, in his collection of tales from the Italian Tyrol, mentions a story-teller who can entertain her audience with a legend which runs on from day to day for a whole week. The pathos of the life of the poor is brought home to us in connection with this ideal world. Vernaleken feelingly remarks that they not only gratify here that love of the marvellous indigenous in all minds, but they console themselves in their miseries by dwelling on pictures of the world as it might be. The influence of the poor man's wishes on the creative fancy is very marked in all the folk-tales. He dreams of gold; his ideal is the stupid boy, despised by his elder brothers, yet favoured by the supernatural powers, who succeeds where they have failed, and becomes the mate of the royal maiden, and the peer of kings. Sometimes the deep sense that there is in his life a worth equal to that of the greatest on earth takes the form of humorous mockery, as when he guesses riddles which have baffled courtiers, or relates fictions which extort indignant disavowal from the throne. Stupid Hans seems to be as much the hero of German folk-tales as was Siegfried in the old heroic legends, or Herakles in the enthusiastic popular lore of Greece.

The mention of Greece may remind us of another important matter of interest in connection with these tales. It is, we believe, a sound proposition, that the

German divine and heroic legends throw the best side light obtainable on the Greek mythology. the folk-tales are 'myths in the last stage of their development' (Hahn), then, in these lingering echoes from ancient heathendom, we may find some hints of the original significance of the histories of gods and heroes of the fore-time. In fact, when the early lore of Greece is divested of its splendid setting in the poets, we find it to be of one substance with the ideas which persist in these folk-tales. Fairies, like Thetis, are wooed and won by mortals, yet fly back to their haunts and to their dances in the wilderness so soon as they recover their wings, remembering, nevertheless, husband and child, just as Thetis cherishes Achilles. The maiden who is carried off and kept imprisoned by the wicked dragon or giant till the hero comes to deliver her, recalls Andromeda, Hesione, or Eurydike. Stories of the cruel step-mother. and of the orphan girl who wanders in misery till the prince sees and loves her in her beggarly attire. remind of Ino, of Ariadne, of Antiope, of Hypsipyle. The cruel maiden who exacts the life of her suitors repeats the story of Oinomaos and Hippodameia; and one cannot but suspect that the same mythic form, though overlaid by other motives, lies at the foundation of the story of Penelope. Again, there are hundreds of stories of three brothers, of whom the younger, hated by his elder brethren, surpasses them in heroic deeds, and supplants them in their patrimony. We cannot but see that here is a leading early idea, which is impressed upon the Greek myth of the Trias of great gods, Zeus, Poseidon, and Hades. The more such parallels are studied, and the profound hold upon the popular mind and the wide diffusion of such ideas is recognised, the more clearly will it appear that we have to do with an universal lore of spirit and nature; in other words, a body of primitive belief concerning man and the invisible mysterious world which surrounds him on every hand.

It is, first and foremost, a lore of the human spirit. It has now been the fashion for many years among the majority of mythologists to trace these ideas to 'impressions of nature,' especially to solar changes, or to the phenomena of the tempest. On this latter theory Dr. Schwartz has written a most ingenious book on *The Origin of Mythology*, with illustrations from the Greek and German legends. His brother-in-law, Kuhn, follows the same path. Hahn, Max Müller, Sir G. W. Cox, and others, see in the myths of the Aryan nations chiefly allegories of dawns, sunsets, and the like.

In our judgment, the interpretations of the so-called Nature-mythologists are based upon a radical mistake, and present in the result a simple inversion of the truth. Unless we are prepared to admit that mankind derived its ideas of spiritual being, with all the mingled tragedy, pathos, and humour of its experiences, from the observation of sky changes and the like, the theories referred

to can be no sound or adequate explanation of this primeval lore of the people's heart. The truth is that such theories mistake the weaker for the stronger, the physical accident for the spiritual substance, the second for the first in the order of thought. By a single illustration to make clear our meaning: In Goetlie's well-known poem the Erl-König, the terrified boy sees in the wreath of mist the shape of the dread fairy king, where to the father's sober gaze there is a wreath of mist and nothing more. The boy, it is evident, does not get the idea of the supernatural being from the sight of the mist, but projects the idea already in his fancy upon the mist, in the gloom of the stormy night. And so through the whole of the sphere of marvels. Darkness, thunder, lightning, or solar and cloudy change do but hint to the excited fancy the presence and operation of demons, ghosts, dwarfs, giants, fairies, and other 'spiritual creatures,' whose existence is believed in on other and deeper grounds. We maintain that the myths and folk-tales are no mere flimsy renderings of the changes of external nature into stories of human passion and adventure, but that they are the deposit of an immemorial tradition concerning the invisible and spiritual world, veiled from us in the life of sense and the clear waking hours of distinct perception, open to us in the mood of dreams.

Awe is the ground-tone in religious belief, and a dread belief in Hades, or the Underworld, runs through the very texture of these stories. The hero's adventures begin with his entrance into the forest. So does Dante at the opening of his visions find himself

per una selva oscura Chè la diritta via era smarrita.

The meaning is the same. He is entering the region of dreams; and the region of dreams from Homer downwards is the region of Hades and the departed. There endless marvels happen. Spiritual being, set free from the fetters of earthly existence, becomes subject to metamorphosis; and black horses, black birds, are other forms of human beings who have passed under devilish enchantment. The foul dragon is the chief metamorphosis of the prince of darkness; and if deep pools and springs are still believed to be haunted by such monsters, this is because watery hollows and caverns have ever been held in popular belief as entrances to Hades. Giants are also metamorphoses of devils; while the dwarfs, with their benevolent cunning, like the daoinie shie or 'good people' of the Highlanders, represent the spirits of departed ancestors, on the whole, though irritable and tricky, kindly disposed to the living. The myths of the imprisonment and enforced labour of the great gods or heroes in the Greek lore, and of the folk-tale heroes, point in the same direction. prison-house is the Underworld, from which release is ever possible at the hands of the fearless hero, who is implicitly obedient to supernatural directions. Strange if we fail to detect the passionate hope and love which throbs in these old-world poesies, or the presages they

contain of the cheering doctrines of Christianity. Vernaleken regards it as a sign of 'over-education' if men fail to appreciate the profound pathos of the folk-tales, and dismiss them as a mere play of idle fancy. May it not rather be designated as a mark of 'half-education,' if we do not feel that we need to correct those habits of abstraction, induced by the study of 'science,' by a return to the warm and living poesy of the peasant heart, to which those abstractions are unknown? Many eminent men of science have undoubtedly found refreshment and delight in these studies; and it is with some modest hope of interesting a student here and there in the study of mythic lore in general, that the translator has ventured to pen these few prefatory lines.

To him it appears that that lore can never be properly appreciated except by a deeper intelligence of, and sympathy with the human heart, its sorrows and sufferings, the sense of infinite mystery surrounding it, its indigenous belief in a future life, its unquenchable hopes of deliverance from evil. Briefly: the belief in spirit as closely related to the material world, yet superior to it, as capable of magical activity, as containing within it the supernatural, as destined to triumph over the terrors of death, is here found in a childlike naïveté of expression which may be not less instructive than the reasoned convictions of philosophers. It is not otherwise in Homer. Those who know how to read his artistic imagery will discover

in the Odyssey, beneath all its variety of pictures, one leading motive,—the sojourn of a hero in Hades, and his final release. That enchanting poem moves in the chiaro-oscuro, in the border-land of realities and dreams. On the whole the Iliad dazzles us by its pictures of the bright Olympian or upper world; yet there, too, are significant glimpses of the other state, connected with which are the dread beings, such as the Erinyes and others, who seem most deeply to govern the Homeric conscience. We mistake the nature of Homeric religion if we think that the great Olympian forms, treated with so much plastic ease in the poems, were the highest objects of reverence of the But it seems to be the profoundest mistake of all when men seek to materialize those splendid forms, to reduce them to suns, moons, dawns, lightning-flashes, and what not, as if any object in Nature could ever wear a personal significance or glory not cast upon it from the human spirit itself, the one theatre and focus When the nature and value of the of all marvels. products of human phantasy, as distinguished from sensuous perception on the one hand, on the other, from the abstracting or logical understanding, are better understood, mythologic science will recover from its long aberrations, and take a truer direction.

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HONDIDDLEDO AND HIS FIDDLE.

NCE there was a peasant who had three sons, of whom one was more stupid than the others. The first was called Diddledye, the second Diddledob, and the

stupidest of the three Hondiddledo. Now, the peasant had in his garden a fine apple-tree, and one day he noticed that a lot of the apples had been stolen. He resolved to look out for the thief, and bade Diddledye keep a night-watch by the tree. This at first he did; but as sleep pressed more and more on his eyes, he lay down on the grass and began to snore. Suddenly he heard a noise, looked round, and saw a little white man, who was just disappearing in the brook hard by. To his surprise he noticed that again a lot of apples was missing. Sadly he went home and told his father. 'You seven-sleeper!' said his father, 'I will open your eyes for you,' and gave Diddledye a box on the ear.

Then the next night he bade Diddledob watch the apple-tree; but Diddledob also fell asleep by the tree,

and, like his brother, he too saw the little white man. He rubbed his eyes, and thought he had not seen rightly; but when he turned to the apple-tree and found it almost stripped, he went sorrowfully to his father and told him. 'Come, now,' said the father, 'you haven't opened an eye the whole night; if you had been awake you would have caught the thief. You shall be punished for your carelessness.' So he took a hazel rod and gave him a good thrashing.

'Listen, father, I'll catch the hunchback yet,' cried Hondiddledo, whose greatest delight was his fiddle; 'I'll go and wait till the thief comes.' So out goes Hondiddledo, takes his seat on the apple-tree and begins to play softly on the fiddle. All at once he saw a little white man dancing about under the tree. 'That's the very daddymon,' thinks Hondiddledo to himself; 'wait, if you're the thief, till I get down.' He left off fiddling and was going to get down out of the tree, when he saw. to his horror, that the little man was getting bigger and bigger. But Hondiddledo soon recovered from his fright, gaily took up his fiddle and began again to play. And as he fiddled the white man became smaller and smaller, and began to dance in the fulness of his joy. By and by Hondiddledo was tired, he left off playing, and put his fiddle on one side. Immediately the little man became bigger again, until he nearly overtopped the 'Look here,' he said to Hondiddledo, 'if you like you can earn a heap of money with your fiddle.' 'All right,' said Hondiddledo, 'I'm ready.' 'Come,

then, with me,' said the man. 'I wish I might,' said the boy, 'but I have to watch for the apple-thief.' 'Never mind,' replied the other, 'you shan't lose any of your apples, and you shall get back the stolen ones.' 'That'll do,' thought Hondiddledo, and down he came, took his fiddle, and was going to follow the man. But it was no go, for scarcely had Hondiddledo left the tree than all the apples vanished. He stood quite astounded beside the tree, and was vexed that, in spite of his watchfulness, the apples had been taken away. Day broke, the cock had already crowed for the first time, and Hondiddledo knew not what to do, for the white man was gone, and he dared not go home, because he knew he should have to suffer for it when his father found that all the apples were stolen.

'I don't know,' he says to himself; 'my fiddle is worth something; I'll go into the wide world and try my luck, and if I meet the apple-thief there he shall smart for it.'

No sooner said than done. Hondiddledo set out, his fiddle under his arm, and went on for a long time until he came into a big, big forest. It was night-time, and Hondiddledo, who did not know the ins and outs of the forest, was lost. As he went on he remembered that he had his fiddle with him. Quickly he took it out and began to play. Then he noticed a tiny light afar off, which came nearer and nearer, and all at once a golden pony stood before him. 'You're just come handy,' thinks Hondiddledo to himself, and jumping on

het pony's back he gallops away. Before a small hut in the middle of the forest the pony stopped, Hondiddledo got down, and went with his fiddle into the hut. There to his astonishment he found a number of little men, who were merrily dancing in a circle, while others were playing, and others were eating and drinking and enjoying themselves at a great table. The little men seemed to have waited for him, for scarcely had he entered than they were all quiet. The little men made him sit down and take part in their pleasures. diddledo was very hungry, so he sat down before a full plate and fell to. Meanwhile some of the little men had seized his fiddle, and as they were pleased with it they wanted to make an exchange with Hondiddledo, and promised him another fiddle, all of gold. diddledo agreed, took the gold fiddle, and began to play. Immediately the little men began to dance and leap merrily. And this went on for a long time, until Hondiddledo was weary of it, and he said he must go forward and try to catch the apple-thief. But they would not let him go, and they promised him a lot more apples that he might carry home by and by. Hondiddledo agreed, and fiddled on a while longer.

When he had done, the little men gave him a sack full of apples, hams, and pastry to take with him. Before the hut he found the white pony again. Hondiddledo jumped on his back, and the pony never stopped until he got to the apple-tree. Hondiddledo jumped down, the pony vanished, and the boy went



quickly into the house with his sack and his fiddle to his brothers. They looked at him quite astonished, for they did not know him again. It was only when Hondiddledo had told them the whole story that they recollected him. He told them he had all the apples in the sack and a golden fiddle into the bargain, and they should see it next morning.

Next day Hondiddledo got up very early and was going to take his fiddle, which he had hung the day before on the wall, but was no little astonished to find instead of it a horse-shoe hanging on the nail.

When the father and the brothers came the sack was opened, and to the horror of all there fell out—not apples, much less hams and tarts, but only toads and lizards came out of the sack. Hondiddledo now perceived that he had not only been tricked out of his apples, but also out of his fiddle, in a shameful manner. From grief at this loss he soon died, for he did not care to live without his fiddle.

My story's done, See the mouse run! He wears a red skin; Let another begin.

WINTERKOLBLE.

ONCE there lived a poor wood-cutter with his wife and little daughter in a great forest. He often knew not how to satisfy the hunger of his family, and so made up his mind to take his daughter into the forest and leave her there.

One day, having no food for himself or his family, and no work, he took the girl to a beautiful forest pasture and left her, with the promise soon to return. To deceive the child, he bound a piece of wood with a cord to a tree, so that the wind tossed it hither and thirher, and the striking on the tree made a sound like the felling of wood.

The child was thus deceived, and went seeking for berries and flowers. After a time she fell asleep from weariness. When she awoke the moon stood high in heaven, and her father came not back.

The maiden began to weep bitterly, and ran deeper into the forest to look for her father.

Suddenly she saw a small fire, by which several small pots stood. In her curiosity she ran up, busily laid dry sticks on the fire, which was going out, and blew

with all her might to revive it. When she turned round she noticed a dwarf, who smiled pleasantly upon her. He was all in grey, and his white beard, strangely contrasting with his grey coat, flowed down over his breast.

The little girl was frightened, and would have run away, but the dwarf called her to him. Reluctantly she obeyed; the old man patted her on the back, and spoke so kindly that she lost all fear, and helped him to cook. The little grey man asked her name, and who her father was. When she told him, with tears in her eyes, he comforted her and said she should stay with him and be his daughter. She agreed, and was led by the old man to his dwelling. This was a great hollow tree, in which a heap of leaves served for a bed.

The dwarf made another couch, that the wearied child might rest.

Next morning he woke the maiden, and said he must go away, and she was to keep the house, as he called the tree, in order till he should return. Soon he came back and showed her how to cook, and do other things about his house; and so the day passed quickly, and evening came before she knew.

They lived peacefully several years; the maiden had grown up, and overtopped her foster father by a head. One evening the dwarf said he must now think of her future. 'The queen,' he said, 'who lives near here, wants a faithful waiting-maid, and I have recommended you to her, and she thinks of taking you. You have

only to behave well, and it will be well with you all your life.' Next morning they went together to the castle, and the girl was brought before the queen and accepted by her. She took a loving farewell of her foster father, and he had to promise to visit her every Sunday.

She had not been long in service before the young king returned home victorious from a war. He was pleased with the maiden, and desired her for his wife. His mother gladly consented, for she was very fond of the maiden.

When the grey man, as he was called in the castle, came once more to visit his daughter, the queen said that her son intended to marry the maiden, and that she had consented, and it was now only for him to state his wishes. The old man said sullenly, 'The king will only get my daughter if he can tell my name.' Then he departed for the forest. As usual he made his fire and cooked, meantime skipping about the fire and singing—

'Boil, pot, boil!

The king knows not—all the same—
Winterkolble is my name.'

The king in his perplexity had sent out a servant to learn the name of the old man. The servant heard, and ran joyously back to the castle, told the name, and was rewarded with many gold pieces. When the dwarf came again, the king greeted him with the words, 'Welcome, Father Winterkolble!'

The dwarf saw that he was outwitted, and gave his consent. The wedding was celebrated, and he was present. But they could not prevail upon him to remove to the castle, and he dwelt as before in his tree.

KRUZIMÜGELI.

ONCE there was a king who wished to marry, but he had determined to take none other to wife than one who had jet black hair and eyes; whether she were high or low born did not matter to him. So he caused a proclamation to be made through the land, that all maidens with the above-named qualifications should appear before him.

Many announced themselves, but some had not the degree of blackness desired by the king, and others wore false hair; in short, there was something deficient in every one.

A charcoal-burner now came with his daughter, and as she noticed the throng before the king's palace, she asked her father what it meant. He answered that the king desired to wed a maiden with black hair and black eyes, but that none could be found possessing these according to the king's desire.

The charcoal-burner's daughter had both. So she said to her father, 'May I go?' But he replied, 'It seems to me thou art stupid indeed to think the king will take thee to wife.' But she said that she only

wanted to go that she might see a little of the castle. Her father gave her leave to go, and she went. On the way she met a little man who called to her, 'Ho! maiden; what wilt thou give me if thou becomest queen?' 'Why, my little man, what can I give thee? I have nothing,' she replied. Then began the dwarf again, 'Thou wilt be queen, but thou must know at the end of three years that my name is Kruzimügeli; if not, thou art mine.' 'Well, if that is all, I will attend to it,' she said, and ran to the castle, without thinking any more of the dwarf, who rubbed his hands with glee, and looked after her.

When the king looked upon the maiden, he resolved at once to make her his queen, for her hair shone and her eyes sparkled with blackness. So the wedding took place, and they lived very happily. She had almost forgotten that the three years were drawing to a close, and oh! horror! she had forgotten the name of the dwarf! She became melancholy, and wept the whole day. The king, who loved her dearly, caused fêtes to be held for her amusement, but all in vain. If he asked why she was so sad, she always answered she could not tell him.

One day the king's forester went into the forest for game for the royal table. Deep in the forest he saw a dwarf, who had made a fire, and who was leaping about it with malicious joy, and singing—

^{&#}x27;She knows not—oh, what jollity!—
My name is Kruzimügeli.'

The huntsman heard this and went home. He met the queen in the castle garden, where she was walking, plunged in grief He at once told her of the adventure in the forest, and when she heard the name Kruzimügeli, she was almost beside herself for joy, for next day was the last of the third year, and the dwarf would come to ask the queen his name.

Next day, in fact, he came and asked the queen, 'Now, lady queen, dost thou know my name? Thou hast only three guesses, and if thou dost not guess right, thou belongest to me.' The queen answered, 'It seems to me it is Steffel.' When the dwarf heard this he leaped for joy, and cried with all his might, 'Missed!' Then the queen said, 'Then it is Beitle.' Again he made a bound, and cried again, 'Missed!' Then the queen said quite carelessly, 'Then it is Kruzimügeli.' When he heard this, he burst, without a word, through the wall into the open air. All endeavours to close up the hole made in the wall proved fruitless.

The queen lived with her consort long and happily.



"When he heard this, he burst without a word through the wall into the open air."—Page 28.



THE BLACKBIRD.

A MAN there was who had twelve sons and a very beautiful daughter. She was the apple of her mother's eye, while she treated the sons very strictly. So the sons resolved to leave their parents and to seek their fortune in a foreign land. They knew that their father would not be willing for them to go, and therefore kept their plans secret. They saved some money for their journey, and only wanted a good opportunity to escape from home.

One day the parents went with their daughter to a yearly market, from which they were to return in two days' time. Scarcely had the twelve brothers heard this, than they got their traps together, and a few hours after the departure of their parents they too turned their backs upon home. They continued their journey till late in the night, and had gone some little distance when their provisions failed them. They looked around, but nowhere could they see a hospitable hut. Hastening on they came to a forest, through which only a very small track ran. Hunger urged onwards their steps, and in half an hour's time they came to the

other end of the forest. Here they came in sight of a small cottage, and eagerly going forward knocked at the door. But all was still. Again and again they knocked, more loudly each time, and at last the door gave way to their violence. They went into the hut, but found nothing to show that anybody lived there. Dust and mildew lay everywhere, and spiders had covered the walls with their webs. Opening a second door, which led them into a spacious room, bearing all the signs of having been inhabited, they found another door leading into a small chamber. Entering this they saw an old man sitting on a chair, his hand resting on a table. The brothers thought it was the master of the house, and were about, in respect to his grey hairs, to draw back. But as the younger pushed against the chair on which the supposed master of the house sat, the old man fell asunder into dust. In horror the twelve brothers fell together to the ground, and it was some time before they recovered themselves. then made a grave and buried the old man's ashes. As there were no other heirs, they took possession of the house, and carefully cleansed it. They then made a search through it, and found many things which time had not destroyed, and which did them good service. On the table on which the old man rested they found some rolls of bank-notes, with which they could buy provisions for a considerable time. Some days later they explored the neighbourhood, and discovered, a few miles from their dwelling, a mine, where labourers

were needed. The brothers were of one mind, that eleven of them should always work here, to get their bread, while the twelfth was to cook for the others, and do the rest of the house-work.

So a year passed by, and their sister was not very happy at home. What the brothers had to endure before from their mother, the sister had now to suffer from the father. She was treated by him like the commonest maid-servant, because he thought she knew of the plot of her brothers. She resolved therefore to seek her beloved brothers, and prayed God day and night He would lead her on the way to them. One day her father sent her to a town about seven miles distant. She quietly took her things with her, and never came back. Putting her trust in God she passed by the town and went on, not knowing whither her steps would lead her. If anybody met her and asked whither she was going, she answered, 'To my brothers.' They could get nothing else out of her, and they thought she was not in her right senses. whole day she had eaten and drank nothing, when she came up to a cottage. Hungry and thirsty she knocked at the door of the solitary dwelling. It was that of her brothers. Scarcely had the eldest brother, who was doing the house-work that day, heard the gentle knocking, than he hastened out. The sister begged, with downcast eyes, for a drink of water and a bit of bread. The brother would not let her speak to the end, but weeping for joy folded her in his arms. Then for

the first time the modest beggar-girl lifted her eyes and knew her brother. He led her into the house and gave her to eat and drink. They had so much to tell one another, that the hour of the brothers' return passed by unheeded. They came and were astonished when they saw their brother through the window with the maiden. But when they went into the room and recognised their sister, their amazement gave place to joy. They greeted one another, and related their experiences. Next morning, at the request of the sister, they all twelve went to work, while she stopped at home and looked after the house-keeping.

Already the sun had set, when she opened the window, to see her returning brothers afar off, that she might hasten to meet them. As she sat there, a little blackbird came flying by, which perched on her hand, and sucked up a few drops of her blood. The maiden was delighted with the tame bird, and would have caught him, but he flew away. Soon after her brothers came, but she said nothing to them about the bird. Every day after this when she opened the window the bird came and sucked a larger quantity of blood each time out of her hand; but when she stretched out her hand to him he flew away. The great loss of blood was hurtful to her; she became thinner and thinner, lost the healthy colour from her cheeks, and the fire from her eyes. This could not be long hidden from They asked their sister tenderly after her brothers. the cause of this change, and she told them the history

of the bird. The brothers made up their minds to kill the bird, and set snares for it. Next day one of the brothers was to stop at home. The bird appeared at the window, and was taken in a snare. No sooner was he taken than the brother killed him, and buried him in the garden. After some time there grew on the bird's grave an apple-tree, and it soon bore twelve very fine apples. To give her brothers a pleasure the sister plucked and put the fruit before them. brothers, who had eaten no apples since leaving their father's house, gladly took the fruit and ate it. immediately afterwards their limbs became thin and crinkled, and they were changed into birds like that beneath the apple-tree. The window was open at which the blackbird was snared, and they flew through it into the open air.

From that time onward the sister sat for days together, weeping at the open window, accusing herself as the cause of this misfortune. Then the twelve blackbirds flew up, and one said, 'Thou canst deliver us, if for two years from this day forward no word passeth thy lips.' She promised, and with a woful song the brothers rose into the air, as if they were thus saying farewell to their sister. She now left the house, in which with her brothers she had lived so many happy days. On a warm day in June she came into a desert place; she was fearfully thirsty, and nowhere was there a fresh spring, nowhere a hospitable roof, nowhere a tree or bush to be seen. Wearied out she sank on the

earth, and lay there unconscious. When she again opened her eyes she saw a tall and handsome young man with a servant busied in restoring her. In haste a bed was made in the carriage for the sick girl to lie in, and she was carefully taken to the next town. Here the maiden soon recovered, and the young man, who was a Count, was always at her side. questions of the Count the maiden had only answered with signs, true to the promise she had given her So the Count thought she was dumb. Nevertheless he sought her love and married her. Soon had the dumb Countess, as she was called, won the love of all her subjects, for none who had any request to make went from her presence unheard. But the love of her mother-in-law she could not gain, notwithstanding she gave her all possible proofs of kindness and love. The mother of the Count was a proud woman, and could never forgive her son for having chosen for his Countess a 'beggar-girl whom he had picked up on the street,' as she said. Whenever she could show her despite to the lovely Countess, she did so with visible joy. Eighteen months after the marriage, a war broke out, and the Count was bound to go to the aid of his king. It was hard for the Count to have to go, but harder still for the Countess, who might not say 'farewell' aloud, because she had resolved to deliver her brothers. Two months after this sad leave-taking, two very beautiful boys were born to the Countess. Their grandmother now showed her

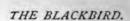


THE BLACKBIRD.

hate to the Countess in a horrible manner. She gained over by flattery and gold a friend of the Count, and persuaded him to write to the Count and tell him that two dogs were born to him. This was done. Countess-mother gave the letter to a trusty messenger, who told the Count the same news that the letter contained. The passionate Count immediately gave the order that the Countess must die. The messenger hastened back with the sentence of death. When he came to the castle, the Dowager-Countess was waiting for him, and read the sentence with joy. She herself handed it to her daughter-in-law, who calmly and collectedly read the letter through. The messenger was named executioner of the sentence. He led the Countess by night into a forest, and already was sharpening the knife for the sacrifice of hate, when suddenly several voices above him cried, 'Hold!' Terrified he let the knife fall and turned round. he only saw twelve birds, which came flying towards him. They settled upon the earth at his feet, and to the horror of the murderer were changed into twelve young men.

So had the sister delivered her brothers, for it was two years since their transformation, and not even in deadly danger had she spoken a word. For this she was now saved by her brothers. They took the messenger prisoner, and led him back into the castle. The Count had just arrived, for the birds had informed him of the innocence of the Countess. He hastened

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to her, begged for her pardon, and for a she clasped him in her arms. The traitor m and the Countess-mother were now conder death, and were not spared even at the interest the Countess, for the Count remained important The friend of the Count was punished by in ment; and the brothers remained with their brotham.

THE SEVEN RAVENS.

THERE was once a woman who had seven sons and one daughter. The sons gave the mother much trouble by their greediness. When on one occasion she made fritters, the seven pilfered one after the other from the dish. Then the mother fell into a rage, and said, 'Wicked boys, you steal like ravens, and may the evil one change you into ravens, and so rid me of you.' Scarcely had she spoken these words when she saw with horror her sons actually changed into ravens, and flying out of the window.

Many years passed by after this event. Meanwhile the daughter grew up, and daily asked her mother what had become of her brothers. At last the woman told her daughter, who at once made up her mind, in spite of the tears and prayers of her mother, to deliver her brothers. After she had journeyed several days she came into a great forest, in which she lost her way. As the night came on, she roamed about for a long time, until she suddenly saw the twinkling of a tiny light, and following it came to a hut. A woman came out and said, 'My child, go quickly on, for my hus-

band is the wind, who devours all human beings that come near him.' But the maiden would not be turned away, and she said, 'Only let me in, and I will hide in the floor under the tub which stands there.' For some time the woman resisted, but at last gave in, and said, 'Very well, sit there under the tub, and I will roast a fat hen for my husband, and perhaps that will soften his temper.' At this moment a blustering announced the return home of the Lord of the Winds. He came in, and after a while said, 'Wife, I smell human blood; you have hidden somebody, and I shall immediately eat him for supper.' The man, who was as big as a giant, began immediately to seek, but could not find the maiden. Meanwhile the woman, who had not dared to contradict him, came with the roast hen. and said, 'Give up that seeking, and rather eat this fat hen.' As the giant glanced at his favourite dish his anger passed away, and he said, 'Now I will not hurt the hidden creature; so let him come forth!' The girl now left her hiding-place at the call of the good wife, and placed herself at the table. The Lord of the Winds meantime devoured the hen, and instead of casting the bones on the ground as he usually did, he laid them in the dish. The maiden had now to tell him how she had come into the hut, and what she was seeking. When she had finished, the Wind said, 'Take the bones which lie there in the dish, and take good care of them, for thou wilt need them. Early on the morrow, when I go forth, thou shalt come with me, and then

do thou go in the direction in which I sway the trees,'

The next day early she went away with the Wind, and took the direction in which he swayed the trees. After some days she came to a castle of glass, having neither door nor gate. She thought it would be in vain to press her way in, when suddenly the bones of the hen occurred to her. She now placed the leg-bones stair-wise upon one another against the glass wall, and to get up to the window, through which she went down, and found herself in a large hall, in which there were seven beds and seven tables, and on each of them stood a bowl with food. She ate from one of the bowls, then threw in her ring and hid herself under the bed. Scarcely had she crept into her lurking-place when twelve ravens flew in at the window. settled on the ground, and were changed to men. the first seven she immediately recognised her brothers; the other five, who were quite green, first served the others at table, and then flew off again. Then the eldest brother found in his bowl a ring. Immediately they searched all round the room, found the maiden, and recognised in her their sister. 'I am come to deliver you,' said she. But the brothers sadly said, 'Dear sister, do not so, for thou wouldst then have to remain dumb for seven years.' But the maiden insisted upon it, and from that hour spoke not a word more. She now remained with her brothers, and looked after their house. Once the brothers, who were rayens by

THE SEVEN RAVENS.

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day, undertook a wide flight; and she went into the forest to seek fir-cones. There she suddenly heard the huntsmen of the king who ruled over the land in which the crystal castle stood. Hastily she took refuge in a hollow tree, that she might not be forced to break silence in the last year. When the dogs came up they sniffed and sniffed about the tree, till the king's attention was excited. He had the tree examined, and the girl was found. As she gave no answer to any question, the king ordered her to be cast into prison. But even in prison all the tortures which they applied to force her to speak were in vain. And so orders were given that she should be executed. But the seven years of silence were passed; and just as she was mounting the gallows her brothers came suddenly flying up, and saved the maiden from death. The king learned the heroic spirit of the maiden, and chose her for his queen. Then the brothers fetched their old mother to the court, and all now lived happy and content.

THE DOG AND THE YELLOW-HAMMER.

ONCE there was a wedding in a certain village, and great feasting went on. The dog of the bridegroom, however, did not get anything at all, and was very hungry indeed. In his distress he went into the garden which belonged to the house, lay down there and moaned. A yellow-hammer came flying by, perched on a tree, and looked down on the dog, who had a rueful face. When the yellow-hammer noticed this she flew nearer to the dog, and asked him why he was so sad. The dog answered, 'Why should not I be sad? there is a wedding in our house, there is plenty to eat and drink, and I must suffer hunger.' 'Don't fret,' said the yellow-hammer, 'you shall have something to eat. with me now into the house, and when we get into the hall I will settle on the ground, and those who carry food from the kitchen into the parlour will put down their dishes and try to catch me; meantime you look out and get your fill.'

Both went along, and when they were in the hall the yellow-hammer settled on the ground. At the same

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time a servant, carrying roast meat, came out of the kitchen, and was going to take it into the parlour for the wedding-guests; but when he saw the yellow bird he set down the tray with the roast meat, called the other servants, and said, 'See! here's a pretty tame bird, it cannot fly much: let's catch it!'

So they caught it; and shutting the door, drove the bird hither and thither, and quite forgot the roast meat.

This suited the dog very well. He ate his fill of the roast meat and went back into the garden. When the yellow-hammer in the parlour thought the dog had had enough she sought for an opportunity to escape. Presently the servant thought of the roast meat which he had set down in the hall, so he ran out of the room, and scarcely had he opened the door when the yellow-hammer had flown out into the garden, where she met the dog. 'Now,' said she, 'you have had enough, haven't you?'

'Yes,' said the dog, 'I have had enough to eat, but I am still thirsty.' 'Thirsty?' said the yellow-hammer; 'never mind, I know another trick. 'Tis twelve o'clock by this time,' she said, 'and the maids in the dairy are milking. Go with me and you shall find a safe opportunity to drink your fill. We will go and wait before the stable door until the milkmaids carry the fresh milk out, and then I will settle on the ground again and behave as if I could not fly. The milkmaids will put down their pails and run after me, so you will gain

time to drink your fill of the warm milk.' The dog agreed.

So they went to the dairy, and waited at the stable door. When the maids came with the milk the yellow-hammer hopped up, and would not fly away at their cries. One of them was struck by this, and she said to the other, 'The bird cannot fly! Let us take it and give it to the cook; he will be mightily pleased with it.' Down they put their milk-pails and hunted after the bird, which kept a good distance from them, so as not to be taken. When the dog had emptied several bowls the yellow-hammer flew away into the air, and the maids found they had teased him in vain. They went back to their milk-pails, and were very angry when they found some of them empty.

The satisfied dog now slipped away, and the yellow-hammer flew above him. Both went to the adjoining wood, by which led a road. The dog laid himself in the shadow of a tree standing near the road, and the yellow-hammer perched on the top of the tree, sung her song, and asked the dog meantime in a sportive tone whether he was hungry. But the dog made no answer.

After a while there came along the road an old man with a cask of beer on a wheelbarrow. This beer belonged to the wedding-party. When the man noticed the dog, which, with its feet stretched out, was rolling under the tree, he beat it till it was dead.

This grieved the yellow-hammer very much, and in order to be revenged on the man she perched on his

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cask, and hopped as if in mockery hither and thither. Enraged at this, the man was going to kill the bird with the same stick. But the bird was too quick for him, and flew away, and the man struck so hard on the cask that it burst asunder, and the beer flowed out into the That was what he got for his cruelty. yellow-hammer was not satisfied with this, for she threatened him that some day or other, if he went out of his inn into the open air without any covering for his head, she would weave a nest in his hair. This frightened him, and he took care not to leave the inn without his cap on. But once it happened that he could not find his cap, yet, as he had to go into his garden, he said to his wife, 'Take this stick, go with me, and when the bird is just going to settle on my head, strike him dead.' His wife took the stick and went with him into the garden. The bird was already on the roof, holding a straw in its beak. When the man saw it he cried out, 'Wife, look out, there's the bird!' At this cry his wife raised the stick, ready to strike quickly. trice the bird flew down on his head; the wife, in a rage, struck at it, but missed, and the man fell to the ground. The yellow-hammer flew up and was gone.

THE THREE WONDROUS FISHES.

A FISHERMAN had taken nothing for many days. Once more he went to the lake to cast his nets. Little hope had he, but he was bound to make the trial, for wife and children were crying for bread.

The fisherman threw the net into the water, and when he pulled it up there lay a stone in it. The second time the fisherman drew out a drowned pig. Casting his net a third time, he drew it out, and, lo I there lay in the net a small casket.

The fisherman took the casket out and opened it, but what was his horror when out of the casket a giant came, and said to the fisherman, 'For bringing me to the light of day receive thy reward. I command thee to get thyself into the casket; if not, thou art a dead man.'

The fisherman whimpered, and said, 'But how shall I find room in this little casket?'

The giant was going to show the fisherman that there was room enough inside, and got again into the casket. No sooner was he inside than the fisherman quickly

shut the casket, and was going to cast it into the lake. The giant begged he would not do this before he had intrusted to him a secret. The fisherman granted his request, and the giant said, 'I am the spirit of the son of thy king. My father cast me into this lake because I had been a great sinner. I had always done evil to men, and had even murdered many honest men. I can only hope to find rest, according to the saying of my father, if I show myself kindly disposed to him who finds me, and this will I do. Listen: not far from this place you will find a pond, there cast your net, and every day you will catch a fish. Take it to the royal court, and you will receive for every such fish a ducat.'

All came to pass as the spirit said. The fisherman found the pond, cast his net into the water, and took a splendid fish. This he carried to the king's castle. When the king's cook looked at the splendid fish, it pleased her greatly, and she gave the fisherman the ducat he asked for it, and thought that to-day she should have something quite out of the ordinary to set before the king.

The cook put the fish in the pan and was going to fry it, but scarce was it on the fire than it spoke, and said, 'As long as ye do good, so long ye will fare well, but so soon as ye do evil, it will go ill with you.' Thereupon he flew up the chimney.

When on the second day the fisherman came with an equally fine fish, the cook bought it, but the same thing happened as with the first fish.

The matter came to the ears of the king, and on the third day he himself was present at the cooking, and the same thing happened. The king had the fisherman brought before him, who, when he came, told all from beginning to end that he knew of the spirit. The king greatly rejoiced that his son had become a changed character, and he took the fisherman into his castle with his whole family, and let them want for nothing.

THERE lived in a certain village, in days gone by, a poor man. He was out of work, and in great distress. One day he went into a forest hard by, and inquired whether the keeper could not employ him as a wood-cutter; but meeting a decided refusal, he was about to return home discouraged, when a huntsman met him, all clad in green, and asked why he was so sad.

When he had told his distress the hunter said, 'If you will agree to let me fetch, in nine years' time, what you will find at home to-day, I will give you a bag full of gold pieces.' The man agreed to the bargain, and was obliged to give his promise in writing, in return for which he received the gold pieces. When he got back to the village, he found that his wife had given birth to a son, and then for the first time saw how sinful his promise had been.

The nine years passed by, and at the end of the last the green hunter appeared and took Ferdinand, for such was the boy's name, with him, without telling the



parents whither he was going to take him. Thereupon they were greatly troubled.

The hunter took the boy into a strange land, where he had a palace, surrounded by a beautiful garden. As soon as they came there, the green hunter showed his protegé all the beautiful things in castle and garden, and said to him, 'You may go wherever you please, except to the pond yonder, surrounded by bushes.' The boy took good note of the place pointed out to him; and some days afterwards his guardian left him, giving out that he was going on a journey.

The boy wanted for nothing, for the servants looked after him. He went through castle and garden, until once accidentally he came to the neighbourhood of the forbidden pond. Tormented by curiosity, he slipped through the bushes, and saw in the water lying before him many thousand gold fishes. He was going to take one of these, but scarcely had a finger touched the water, before it was covered with gold all over. tried to scrape the gold off, but all in vain. wound a cloth around the gilded finger, and so ran back and met his foster father, who at once noticed the wrapped-up finger, and tearing away the cloth, whipped Ferdinand for his disobedience, after which he tapped with a small hammer on the finger, whereupon the gold came off.

After some time the green hunter went on a journey again, and forbade the boy to go into the last room of the castle. But he was not long gone before Ferdi-

nand, to satisfy his curiosity, went in. Here he met a man, whom he recognised as his grandfather, and who gave him a brush, a comb, and a glass cup, with these words: 'Take these three things with thee; some day when thou art in distress they will be of use to thee.' Further he said to him, 'Go into the stable, there shalt thou see a spotless white horse. Say to him, "White horse, 'tis all up with us!" and then he will answer thee.' Ferdinand did as he was bidden, and when he had spoken these words to the horse, the horse replied, 'Mount!' Ferdinand jumped on his back, and quick as an arrow the horse was over the garden wall and away. On and on the noble beast bore his rider, and when the latter had ridden for several hours over mount and valley, the white horse said to him, 'Look around, and see whether he has caught us up yet!' Ferdinand looked round, and saw the green hunter hastening after them. He told the horse so. who replied, 'Throw thy brush away!' He did so, and instantly there rose behind them a thick wood. which blocked up the road from the pursuer.

On again the horse bore his rider for some hours at his swiftest pace, and then warned him to look round again. Then he saw afar the pursuer again. And now the horse told him to throw away the comb. And when he had done so, there arose behind them a great pond, and the pursuer was forced to look about for a ferry, while Ferdinand on his brave beast swiftly rode on.

After a while he had to look round a third time, and



now the green hunter was very near; so the glass cup was thrown away, and instantly a glass mountain sprang up, over which the pursuer could not pass.

Towards evening they arrived at a village, in the neighbourhood of which was the pleasure-castle of the king. When Ferdinand dismounted, his horse said to him, 'Thou hast ridden a day, and during this time hast put back ten years of thy life.'

Ferdinand put the horse in a stall. The horse gave him money, and a garment embroidered with silver stars, and said to him, 'Hire thyself to the gardener of the castle, but on the condition that thou art only to work by night.' This Ferdinand did. So soon as it was dark, he put on his starry garb, and worked quite easily. All that he planted prospered, and he was often praised by his master. By day he went to the inn to see the faithful beast, and talk to him. In the evening he went back into the castle, to attend to his business, generally singing merry songs all the time.

The king's daughter always listened to him, and the handsome boy made a great impression on her heart. One day it came to pass that all the doctors in the land were called together, for the king was very ill. None of them knew of a remedy for the king; but at last an old man declared that the sick man could be cured by taking wolf's, bear's, and deer's milk. The old man had vanished next day without bringing the medicine, and the king sent his huntsmen out to get these kinds of milk. But all returned without having succeeded.

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Then the king promised to give his daughter to the man who should bring him the required article. Ferdinand, and two other gardener boys, resolved to go out and find the three kinds of milk. Ferdinand talked to his white horse about it, and the horse carried him into the forest, where a she-wolf forthwith appeared, and allowed him to milk her. On the way home his two fellow-servants met him, and they were very downcast, for theirs was labour lost; they begged him to give them a portion of his milk. At first he refused, and looked to the white horse as if to ask its advice. Then the white horse nodded its head, so he gave to each of the servants a third part of the milk. Next morning the three fellows went out again, and again Ferdinand obtained the bear's milk, which he also shared with the others. The same took place on the third morning with the deer's milk.

But now they quarrelled as to which of them should take the medicine to the king. Ferdinand, who had consulted the white horse, said, 'We will cast lots.' So they cast lots, and the smallest lot fell to him, and he was therefore the last. He grumbled at this, but his horse comforted him, and said, 'The first who brings the three kinds of milk will cure the king as little as the second.' And so it came to pass. As the prince did not get better after tasting of the mixture brought by the gardener boys, they were thrown, one after another, into prison. Then Ferdinand offered his mixture, and the king was in a short time well. But he

would not keep his promise, and wanted to put Ferdinand off with money. But Ferdinand would not accept it. At last the princess became enraged with her father, so that he gave way, and Ferdinand married her. The festivities lasted four days, during which time the bridegroom did not visit his white horse. When he went down once more, the horse begged him to cut his head off, which Ferdinand would not do. At length, however, the faithful beast overpersuaded him, and drawing the sword which he now always kept at his side, Ferdinand struck his head off. The white horse fell to pieces, and from his trunk flew a white dove, which in a few moments vanished.

After this the king's son-in-law caused his parents to come to him, who had long mourned him as dead. After the death of the old prince, Ferdinand became king, and long were his subjects happy under his rule.



THE DOG AND THE WOLF.

THERE was once a peasant family, and, among other domestic animals, they had a house-dog named Sultan. When the dog had grown old, the peasant drove him away, thinking that he could no longer properly attend to his duty. Quite downcast, with drooping head, the dog left the village, and complained to himself: 'This is the way I am rewarded for my faithful and hard service; after having spent my years of youth and strength in toil, I am driven away in my weak old age, and no rest is allowed me.' Sadly he went on, and wandered about for many days without finding a tolerable shelter.

At last, lean and weak after his long wandering, he came to a forest.

There came a wolf out of the forest, ran up to the poor dog, and cried, 'Stop, old fellow, now thou art in my power, so get ready!'

When Sultan heard the wolf speak thus, he was in terror, and said, 'Dear friend, do but give a good look at me first, and then you will certainly lose all appetite for me; in me you will find the worst meat that you ever tasted, for I am nothing

but skin and bone. However, I can give you some good advice.' The wolf said, 'I want no advice from you, wretched creature! Without your telling me, I know how it would run, namely, that I should spare your life. No! 'tis the old story, short and sweet, down my throat you go!'

Then the dog replied, 'I have no thought of the kind, for I would not live longer. Use your jaws so long as you enjoy yourself, but I only advise you for the best. Would it not be the best plan to feed me first, and after I have been fattened you might then gobble me up? The food would not be lost in this way, because you would find it all at one meal in me. There would be a fine dish of meat. What thinkest thou, brother wolf?'

The wolf said, 'Agreed, provided the feeding does not last long; follow me into my hut.'

The dog did this, and both now went deeper into the forest. Arrived at the hut, Sultan crept in, but the wolf went on to get some game for the poor weak dog.

When he came back, he threw his bag before Sultan, and Sultan made a good supper.

The next day the wolf came and said to the dog, 'Yesterday you ate, to-day I will eat.' The dog replied, 'But what have you taken into your head, dear wolf? Why, as to yesterday's food, I scarce know that I had it.' The wolf was very cross; but he had to put up with it, and go into the forest a second time to hunt down some fresh game for the dog. In this way Sultan

contrived to put off the wolf so long, that at last he felt strong enough to take up the cudgels with him. The wolf kept on hunting, and brought his prey to the dog; but himself ate little or nothing that Sultan might get enough. And so it came to pass that the dog gained in flesh and strength, while the wolf equally fell off.

On the sixth day the wolf came up to the dog and said, 'Now, I think you are ripe!' Sultan replied, 'O yes; in fact I feel myself so well that I will fight it out with you if you won't let me go.' Said the wolf, 'You jest! Consider I have fed you for six whole days, yes, and eaten nothing myself, and now you want me to go away empty? No, no, that will never do!'

Then Sultan replied, 'In one respect you are right, but how do you think you can be justified in eating me up?'

'Tis the right of the strong over the weak,' said the wolf. 'Good!' said the dog, you have given judgment against yourself.' With these words he made a bold dash, and before the wolf knew where he was, he lay on the ground overcome by Sultan.

'Because you spared my life, I will not now destroy you, but give you a chance for your own. So choose two comrades; I will do the same, and to-morrow meet me with them in the forest, and we will decide our dispute.'

They separated to seek their seconds. The wolf went wrathfully deeper into the forest; the dog hastened to the nearest village. After long talk with the growling bear and the sly fox, the wolf found two conrades.

Sultan ran first to the parsonage, and got the great grey cat to go along with him. Thence he turned his steps to the court of the local magistrate, and found in the brave cock his second comrade.

It was hardly daybreak when the dog was with his companions on the way. He all but surprised his enemies in a deep sleep.

The wolf opened his eyes first, awoke his companions, and said to the bear, 'You can climb trees, can't you? Be so good as to get up this tall fir-tree, and look out and see whether our enemies are coming on.' Up went the bear, and as soon as he had got to the top, he called down, 'Run, our enemies are here, close at hand, and what mighty enemies! One rides proudly along, and carries many sharp sabres with him that glisten brightly in the morning sun; behind him there soberly advances another, dragging a long iron bar after him. O dear! O dear! 'At these words the fox was so frightened that he thought it most advisable to take to his heels. The bear hastily scrambled down out of the tree, and crept into a dense thicket, so that only just the end of his tail peeped out.

The foes came on. The wolf, seeing himself deserted by his companions, was about also to take to his heels, when Sultan confronted him. One spring, and the dog held the wolf by the throat, and put an end to him. Meanwhile the cat observed in the bushes the point of the bear's tail as it moved, and snapped at it, thinking to catch a mouse. In terror the bear came out of his hiding-place, and fled in all haste up a tree, thinking that there he would be safe from foes. But he was deceived, for there was the cock before him.

When the cock saw the bear on the tree, he sprang to the next bough, and to the next, and so on. The bear was beside himself, and in terror he fell down and lay dead as a door nail. So ended the battle.

The news of Sultan's heroic deeds and those of his comrades spread far and wide, even to that village where Sultan had formerly served. The consequence was that the peasant family took back again their faithful house-dog, and lovingly cared for him.

THE NINE BIRDS.

ONCE there lived a king who had a daughter that was very cruel. Even when quite a child she was very bloodthirsty. So, for example, she cut off the tongue or the feet of birds which she had caught, and then let them fly, or burned out their eyes. Whenever she could do anything to hurt an animal she did it. As she became older her cruelty increased, and she ventured to exercise it on human beings. She made her dogs hunt all beggars from the castle, and the more they were bitten by the dogs the better pleased she was.

Her father died, and there came a knight's son to seek her hand. She accepted his proposal, and the day of betrothal was fixed. When this arrived she sent the knight into another part of the castle that he might fetch the bridal trinkets. In order to get into the room pointed out he had to pass over a wooden passage, which was so arranged that, if she pulled a cord, he who would pass over it fell, along with the planks into a deep brook, and there had to listen to the diabolical laughing of this cruel woman.

In this way nine young men had fallen, when at last

one came who had seen all this beforehand, for he was a master of the black art. She had already promised him her hand, and as she was about to send him into that room he refused, saying she might fetch the trinkets herself.

Notwithstanding this she spoke to him most civilly, and begged him to do her this favour. But in anger he replied, 'Dost thou think I would be the tenth to find his grave in the brook? This time thou wilt not succeed, for the time of retribution is come.'

Enraged at this address she bade her servants bind him and cast him into the brook. He allowed himself to be bound and cast into the brook, but remained on the surface of the water and smiled at the princess, who in her fury promised hand and kingdom to the man who would slay her enemy. Then her servants took their cross-bows, and nine arrows whistled after the knight. But during the flight the arrows changed into birds, which circled about the head of the knight, twittering. 'If thou wert only here I would soon kill thee,' said she. But he rose along with the birds out of the brook, and before they had all recovered themselves he had vanished in the next forest.

Here he wrote nine letters, wherein he described the death of the nine young men, bound them on the necks of the birds, and caused them to fly through country and through towns. Everywhere the letters were read, and they finally came back to the princess herself, and delivered the letters to her.

She tore them to pieces, but incessantly wrung her hands and bewailed herself, that her crime was now come to the light of day. She put aside her ornaments, drew on a mourning garb, and lived in the forest in which the last knight with the birds had settled down.

The birds came daily to her, and sung the whole story as it was described in the letters, while she scattered with tears the food before the hut, and a thousand times rued her wicked deeds. When these had been at last atoned for, the nine birds were changed into young men, and they forgave the princess. And then the nine young men were changed to angels, and bore the repentant sinner to heaven.

THE WISHING RAG, THE GOLDEN GOAT, AND THE HAT SOLDIERS.

Once there was a cobbler who was very poor, for he had nothing but a wife and an old she-goat. He could earn nothing more at home, and resolved, therefore, to journey forth. 'Listen, dear wife,' he said one day to her; 'thou seest that I can earn nothing here, and I mean, therefore, to travel to-morrow. Kill our goat that I may have something to eat by the way.'

Next day the goat was killed, the cobbler took a part of it, and went on his journey. He travelled all day and could reach neither village nor town. Tired out the poor man lay down under a statue standing at the end of the road in order to rest there a little while. Just as he was about to eat the meat the statue began to speak, and asked the cobbler, 'What hast thou in thy bundle?' 'A piece of goat's flesh,' was the astonished answer. 'Seest thou, my good man, the little wooden hut at the end of the road?' 'Yes, I see it,' he answered. 'Go thither and cast in thy meat. The devils have their workshop there. If afterwards they ask thee what thou demandest as payment, reply,

The old rag which lies on the bed.' The cobbler went forthwith to the hut, cast in the flesh, and demanded as payment the rag mentioned by the statue. Only after long parleying did he succeed in getting it. He then went back with it, looking on the way at his acquisition; but lo! the rag was considerably worse than any which he had in his dwelling.

The cobbler came back to the statue and expressed his disappointment at its advice. But the statue said, 'Take this little rod out of my hand and tap therewith three times on thy rag.' The cobbler did so, and on the rag the best dishes were served. Then the cobbler, who had not tasted such food for long, could once more enjoy himself. After the meal was finished he thanked the statue, took his rag, and was determined to return to his home.

On the way, however, he passed the night in an inn, and showed the magical piece of goods to the guests there. The host and the hostess admired it, and in their hearts longed to possess such a rag. In the night the host stole the cobbler's magical rag from him, and placed another instead of it by his bedside. The next day the cobbler paid his reckoning and went homeward with the supposed genuine rag. When he got there he invited all his friends to a merry feast. Already the invited guests appeared, already they waited for the many dishes which were to be produced, when the cobbler, with his rag in his hand, joined the company, and told them the story of the last few days.

Having done so the cobbler took out the rod, and struck slowly and steadily three times upon the rag. But no dishes appeared. The cobbler struck repeatedly and even more violently, but the rag remained as it was, and the hungry company had to go away unsatisfied. The poor man thought the statue was the cause of the misfortune.

Soon after this the cobbler undertook his second journey, and again took a piece of the goat's flesh with him. Again he came to the statue, which bade him again give the flesh to the devils, and to demand in return the old goat which was hung up at the door. The cobbler did so, and obtained a she-goat, much more wretched than that which he had slaughtered before setting out. When he came to the statue he complained very sorely to it. But the statue gave him a rod, and bade the man to strike with it on the back of the goat. The cobbler did so, and now to his no small astonishment there fell gold pieces from the beast's ears. Joyous was the cobbler when he saw the Quickly he paid his thanks to the statue. money. and hastened homeward with the old goat.

On the way, however, he felt hunger and thirst, and so turned in to the very inn where he had stopped before. After having eaten and drunk, he was about to pay his reckoning. But money he had none, and in order to come by some he led the goat into the room, and struck three times with the rod upon its back. The goat shook money out of its ears, and the cobbler paid

with it his reckoning. No sooner did the host observe this than he began to devise how he might get the goat into his power.

The innkeeper also had a goat, the hair of which resembled that of the cobbler. So he resolved to change his goat for that of the cobbler during the night. No sooner said than done. The goats were changed, and when the cobbler woke up next morning he was in good spirits, not having the slightest suspicion of the trick which had been played upon him. When he came home his wife had to go and fetch a roast pig, and make preparations for a costly meal. The money should be forthcoming. When the meal was eaten, our cobbler wanted to try his article. He led the goat into the room, and struck with the rod thrice on the back of the animal. But no money was seen to fall. The cobbler struck more and more violently, but still no money. Only a weak moan from the poor ill-used animal broke the mysterious silence.

All attempts were in vain; the beast sadly shook his head, but no gold foll from his ears. The poor cobbler saw himself tricked a second time, and now undertook his third and last journey, on which he took again a piece of goat's flesh.

Again he went to the statue, which again advised him to give the flesh to the devils, and to demand in return the old hat standing by the bed. The cobbler did as he was bidden and obtained the old hat, which was in a very poor condition.

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When the cobbler came back to the statue the latter gave him a rod, with which he was to knock three times upon the hat. He did so, and to his astonishment a whole regiment of soldiers marched out. He gazed long with delight upon the little army; then striking again upon the hat, all the soldiers went in. statue explained to the cobbler that his other magical articles had been stolen by the innkeeper. The cobbler determined to fetch them, and went, after thanking the statue, to the inn. Arrived there he demanded the rag and the goat of the host. But the host would not give them back. Then the cobbler knocked upon his hat, and forthwith the whole tap-room overflowed with soldiers, who threatened the host with death if he did not give up those articles. Full of terror the host gave them up, and the cobbler returned a richer man to his house. As he drew near to his home, he sent to invite the king of the land, and promised to show him all manner of things. The king came, saw the goat and the rag, and the dishes on the table were quite to his taste. But on his departure he ordered his servants to steal both the rag and the goat. This was done. In vain the cobbler asked for his property. The king only laughed at him. Then the cobbler, relying on the hat, declared war against the king, and the latter accepted it with lughing mouth. The two fixed upon the place and time of the battle. When the day arrived the cobbler was the first on the battle-field; soon the king also appeared with ten of his best soldiers. As



"He did so, and to his astonishment a whole regiment of soldiers marched out."—Page 66.





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soon as the cobbler saw them he caused his army to march from the hat, and gave them the command to take the king and the others prisoners. The king was quite amazed at the army, and was about to run away, for he felt himself too weak; but the hosts of his foes had already surrounded him. He had to yield, and he was led to the cobbler. The latter promised him pardon as soon as he should restore the goat and the rag.

So was a king once overcome by a mere cobbler.





MARTIN'S EVE.

The story 's begun; See the cock run!

ONCE Tom cat Braunz went to the feast on Martin's Eve. He thought to himself as he went, that if he were to meet somebody, the time would not be so long. Suddenly a dog appeared. 'Tom-cat Braunz,' said he, 'where are you going?' 'To Martinmas.' 'Let me go with you.' 'Very well.' So they went on together.

'Look yonder,' said the dog presently, 'there goes Mother Goose.' Just so; and soon she came up to them. 'Where are you two going?' 'To Martinmas.' 'Let me go with you.' 'Very well.'

When they had gone some way, there came the ox, the cock, and the pig to them. Then they came into a great forest, and had not gone far before Tom-cat Braunz said, 'Listen, I don't know where we are. We have lost our way. Let us turn back.' So they turned back, but could not find the way by which they had come. At last they were all so tired that they lay down on the ground. Suddenly the ox sees quite far off a light. 'Tis all the same to me,' said Tom-cat Braunz. 'I can

climb so well, I will climb up a high tree, and find out where the light is.' This he did; and when he came down they all set out towards the light. It became larger and larger, and presently they saw a house lighted up from top to bottom. The windows were all open. In slips the cock, and takes a peep; and when he came back, he said he had seen thieves counting out money through the whole house. 'Wait,' said the ox, 'I will manage it. First I will leap in at the window. They will all be frightened, and run away and leave us the money. When they are gone, you jump in after me.' Just so. The ox went to the window and leaped plump in. Then the thieves left everything as it was, and fled

The beasts seized the money and divided it, and then prepared to sleep. Thinking the thieves might come during the night for their booty, the dog said, 'I will lie by the door.' Tom-cat Braunz said he would lie before the hearth-fire. The ox lay on a straw-heap, the goose got on a table, the pig lay in the yard, and the cock perched on the roof. When the thieves came back, the dog at the door gave them a bite. Then at the fire they tried to strike a light, but Tom-cat Braunz scratched their faces. Then they were going to take the money from the table, but the goose gave their fingers a good nipping. At last they got out by the door, and tried to run through the yard. Then they tumbled down over the pig, and the ox gored them with his long horns. The cock cried from the roof,



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Why don't you take the money with you?' So the thieves ran away, covered with blood, leaving their booty behind. Next day the beasts took it with them, and lived right merrily.

See the mouse run; The story is done!

THE LITTLE TAILOR.

ONCE there was a poor day-labourer who, with his wife and three children, found it hard to make both ends meet. When the eldest son was fourteen years old, he was apprenticed to a locksmith; and the next in like manner. But when the turn of the youngest, whose name was Hans, came, he was much too weak to learn a trade, and was therefore made to take care of his father's geese.

One day there came an old wife to the cottage of the labourer. Her calling was that of a witch or sorceress; and knowing this, the mother asked her what they were to do with little Hansel. The old woman said, 'Why, let him be a tailor; that's a trade which has a gold mine in it. And do you know what? There's a little thimble for you; give it to Hans. Very well; and now, God bless you!' Saying this, she gave the mother a little thimble, and the mother handed this over to Hans, who was just returning from his geese-keeping. He thanked the old wife heartily, and she, pleased with his great gratitude, gave him a pair of scissors into the bargain,

and bade him never work with another thimble or pair of scissors than her own.

Next week Hans went to a tailor in the village. Having the enchanted thimble, he could soon sew better than any tailor had ever been able to sew before. Then he had to learn to cut out; and he succeeded equally well with his magic scissors, and so his apprenticeship was soon declared at an end.

He now went to the next town, where no one would take him because he was so small; for he looked like a boy of only six years old. At last he found work with a tailor's widow. She soon, for his cleverness, made him foreman over her ten workmen. They were almost ready to burst with envy, for they were much older, and had already been a long time in the widow's service. So they said to one another, 'We must play this yellowbeak (young bird) a trick; we can't put up with it that the little chap should be our foreman.'

They had noticed that Hans never used any scissors but his own, and they resolved therefore to take these from him, and to use them themselves. No sooner said than done. One of the journeymen took his scissors one day and cut out a coat with them. He soon saw the scissors went on and on, cutting of themselves, and how his hand followed after. But oh, horror! when he unfolded the coat, it was cut out for a hunchback, and one of the arms was half an ell longer than the other. Swearing and cursing, he flung the scissors away, and consulted with his mates about

accusing Hans of witchcraft, but Hans got an inkling of it, and ran away.

When he had travelled for two days, he came to a town, in which all the people were clothed in meal-He went under the gate of the town, and was seized by a couple of men clothed in red flour-sacks, and pushed into a house where there was a number of men clothed in black flour-sacks. One of them struck the table with his fist till it cracked again, and cried out, 'In what clothing camest thou to this town, and who art thou?' Hans replied, 'I am a tailor; and as for my clothing, it is after the latest fashion.' 'Ha! unlucky one,' cried the judge, for such he was, 'knowest thou not then that every one who enters this town must put on a sack, and that for transgression of this law thou must receive a hundred stripes? And knowest thou not that every tailor who enters this town must fight with a giant for the king's daughter?'

'Nay, how should I know that?' said Hans, quite stupefied. 'Ignorance is no excuse,' answered the judge; 'thou must fight with the giant, but the flogging shall be remitted, for thou wilt certainly find thy end in the battle with the giant.'

'Good,' thought Hans, 'I am spared something.' He was now led by two soldiers into a prison, where he was to remain until the next day. The jailer felt grief for the poor little tailor, and stayed up with him the whole night chatting with him. 'I say,' said Hans, 'tell me, now, why do you go about in sacks, and why do

you hate tailors so much? I can't understand why it is a crime to carry on the honourable trade of tailor.'

'Now,' said the jailer, 'I'll tell you the whole story. Our queen was very vain, and this vanity went so far that she wore seven new dresses every day. Although this cost a fearful lot of money, it would not have mattered so much had not the luxurious habit passed on to the queen's daughter. But she carried it much further than her mother, for she did nothing all day but put her dresses off and on. At last the king's patience was at an end; he turned the queen out, shut up his daughter in a tower, and had her watched by a giant. Then he proclaimed it to be law that all the dwellers in the city should wear sacks, and drove the tailors, as the cause of his misfortune, out of his kingdom, and forbade them ever to return.'

Next morning early, Hans, accompanied by soldiers and police, went to the forest. When they came near enough to hear the giant snoring, the policemen left Hans, and told him he was now to go straight forward. Suddenly the old wife who had given him the thimble stood before him, and said, 'There is a hedgehog and a bird, take heed of both; thou wilt find good use for them both.' So saying, she disappeared.

Hans went on, until suddenly he heard the giant's voice, and saw his dreadful form appearing from behind a tree. 'Thou wretched little manikin, wilt thou measure thyself with me? See, now, which can send

the bowl furthest, I or thou; here is a bowling-green.' He took a bowl from the sack and sent it a long, long way. But Hans made his hedgehog run, and the hedgehog never stopped until he was ahead of the giant's bowl. Angrily he cried, 'Very well, this time thou hast won; now come hither. Seest thou that this tower has fifteen floors; now I will strike the last.' However he only threw his stone into the twelfth floor. 'Now, try your cast!' Hans made his bird fly up, and it flew far away above the tower. 'Thou hast won again; now try who can leap highest,' said the giant, and jumped over an oak.

'Good,' said Hans; 'now be so good as to bend down this poplar for me, that I may measure it.' The giant bent it, and Hans held fast to the top of it. 'You can let go,' he cried to the giant; 'I know how long it is.' The giant let go, and Hans flew from the poplar over some trees which were higher than the oak over which the giant had leapt.

Then the giant cried, 'Thou hast saved thy life, and won the king's daughter besides!' Then he lifted Hans up, so that on the third floor he could see the princess through a window. Forthwith Hans walked through the window.

Then Hans and the princess went to the king, and told him that the giant had been conquered.

The king abdicated in favour of Hans, and Hans lived with his queen many long years.

But what did the new king with the magic things?

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With the scissors he cut good men out of bad, and with the thimble he sewed on his soldiers' chopped-off heads, arms, and feet, and all were then as fresh and well as before. And if you don't believe it, you can let it alone.

THE TAILOR AND THE HUNTER.

A JOURNEYMAN tailor, who was weary of his occupation, wandered forth into the world. When he had finished the first day's journey, he came into a dark forest, and there heard some one singing. closer, and saw a hunter sitting by a tree, and singing to himself a little song. The tailor asked the hunter why he sat here idle in the forest, instead of attending to his business. 'I am tired of it,' said the hunter; "'twere better for me if I could go forth in search of adventures.' Rejoiced at these words, the tailor invited the hunter to bear him company. The hunter agreed, and the two roamed through the forest. But night surprised them before they could get out of the forest, and they were therefore compelled to pass the night where they were.

Both got into a high tree, and slept until the break of day. Then they awoke, and went on again with new strength. After a long march through the forest, they were suddenly disturbed in their conversation by loud laughter. Looking up, they saw a few steps before them a little man, who beckoned to them with his finger to follow.

They did so, and soon stood before a very strong casile. The little man knocked with a little rod at the great iron gate, and it opened. The little man pointed to a door in the court, and vanished. The tailor thought that the little man meant by this to point out that they were to pass through that door. So he took the hunter by the hand, and led him through the door, which cremed into a kitchen, with a small hearth on the left hand and on the right another door. Through this they went into a roomy apartment, containing two beds, a table, and two chairs. All this seemed as if made ready for them. The hunter was bold and spirited; not so the tailer. He was more prudent than brave, and thought the best plan would be for only one to go to bed by night, and for the other to keep watch. He felt there was something uncanny in this castle ever since the little man had vanished.

The first night the tailor kept watch. He placed a stool by the hearth in the kitchen and warmed himself, for it was late in autumn, and cold. The hunter had meanwhile laid himself down in one of the beds that were in the room, and was sleeping soundly, when the hour of midnight approached. Then softly the door opened, and a dwarf clad in green came in. He went to the hearth, held his hands over the fire, and looked at the tailor with a sorrowful glance. When the tailor saw this, he put a piece of wood on the fire, thinking in this way he had done according to the pleasure of the little man. And in fact the dwarf was rejoiced, for

he clapped the tailor on the shoulder, and then departed with cheerful countenance.

Soon after the hunter awoke, for it was daybreak. As he sat up in bed, to call the tailor from his watch, he saw upon the table a number of dishes. Highly delighted, he jumped out of bed, and fetched the tailor. With no end of wonder they fell to; and allowed that the food was delicious, for in truth their appetites were rather sharp. After the meal they entertained one another for some time with their journey, and the adventures that were still in store for them.

As night came on the hunter prepared to take his turn at watching.

Full of fears the tailor went to bed, while the hunter fearlessly went into the kitchen and made up a capital fire on the hearth. This night again came the little man, and was going to warm himself, but there was no good-natured tailor this time. The hunter, a rough, thoughtless fellow, was not a bit pleased that so little a sprig should dare to warm himself at his fire. So he took a stick of wood, and struck the poor little man's fingers smartly with it. Enraged at this rudeness and hard-heartedness, the little man departed, saying, 'Thou shalt rue it!' in a threatening tone.

The tailor had said nothing to the hunter about the occurrence of the preceding night, because he wished to wait for the watch-night of the hunter, to see whether the latter would receive a similar visit. When the hunter told him of the matter, he also told his story,

and reproached the hunter for having been so rough and rude.

With still greater fear than the first time he went this evening to watch. At the regular hour the little man again appeared and warmed himself. The tailor wished to make up for the ill behaviour of the hunter, so he put several pieces of wood on instead of one. The little man was evidently rejoiced at this, took a ring from his finger, and put it on the finger of the tailor, saying, 'Wouldst thou have any wish fulfilled, thou hast only to turn the ring on thy finger, and I will be at once at thy service.' Then the dwarf bowed and vanished.

On the morrow the tailor told the hunter again what had occurred, except that he kept silence about the ring. But the hunter only laughed at him, and said, 'Thou'rt a soft fellow; wait a bit, and I'll tackle the little un!' The tailor warned him against this; for he had the firm conviction that they were in a dwarf's castle, and thought that if they behaved rudely, they would fare ill in the future. So he tried to stir up the hunter to a hasty flight, and this would have been possible, because the tailor had the magical ring. But the hunter wanted to give the poor dwarf a regular good beating once more, in case he should venture into the kitchen again.

The hunter went to his watch; the tailor lay restlessly in bed, and could not sleep, because he thought of the flogging they would soon get. At the regular hour the little man came as before, and was about to warm him-



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self. The hunter did as he had resolved, and struck with all his might upon the back of the little one. But now the dwarf was not so patient and quiet as before; he raised a loud cry, whereupon the kitchen instantly swarmed with dwarfs, who all fell upon the hunter, and gave him a long and sound thrashing, until at last he rushed through the door into the open air. The tailor had leaped out of bed, and happily reached the open air without a blow.

The two ran a long stretch before they could trust themselves to stand still to take breath. Now for the first time the hunter felt the pain of the wounds inflicted upon him by the dwarfs. But he could not help laughing at the tailor, for the latter stood before him stripped to his shirt and stockings; for in his haste the latter had forgotten to put on his clothes, and had run away straight from his bed. But now it occurred to him that he had the magical ring. Turning it, in an instant two dwarfs stood before him, who had brought with them his garments. The tailor took them and put them on. Meanwhile the two dwarfs disappeared.

The hunter was almost beside himself with astonishment, and thought the tailor had made a secret treaty with the dwarfs. From this time he became more and more distrustful towards the tailor, and sought to get rid of him.

They had gone another long stretch, when they came to a tree and sat down to rest from their toils and troubles. They were tormented by hunger, and a



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well-spread table would not have been out of place there. The tailor, always thinking of his ring, turned it, and immediately a great gulf yawned before them in the earth. Out of this cleft came first four dwarfs with a table, which they placed before the two wanderers, then came seven dwarfs with dishes, and after these seven, five more, bearing plates, vessels, and chairs; and there was no want of wine. As the whole dwarf company had come, so did they vanish again.

This time the hunter omitted his astonishment, so greatly was he tormented by hunger. Instead of wondering, he fell upon the dishes and devoured all that he could lay hands upon. When they were both satisfied, the table with all its dishes and vessels disappeared.

And now for the first time it occurred to the hunter that the dishes and all the vessels had been brought by the dwarfs. He also called to mind the two dwarfs who had brought the tailor his clothes, and he now believed the more firmly that the tailor was in league with the dwarfs, and his distrust continued to increase.

The good-humoured tailor observed nothing of all this. It was remarkable that after he received the magic ring all fear had passed away from him, and now his courage surpassed that of the hunter.

At last they came out of the forest, and found a highroad which led them on and on until they came to a city. As they entered, they observed signs of sadness upon the faces of the people. Asking the cause of this, the following story was told them: Once there ruled



in the city a very hard-hearted king. His daughter was about to be married, and he gave orders that all the tailors of the city should one after the other make a dress for his daughter, and that a fine and becoming one, according to the fancy of the king. If a tailor could do this, a great reward was offered him, but if not, he was to make ready to die.

The tailor thought to himself, 'See, perhaps thou mayest save the tailors of this city from their distress!' So saying, he went into the house of one of the tailors.

It so happened that this tailor was the very man who had had the task first imposed upon him, and as they went in they met only mourners, for the tailor was bound to bring the dress to the king on the following morning, and should it not please him, he would no more return home to wife and child. When the two companions heard this, the wandering tailor promised to deliver his distressed fellow-craftsman. So he asked for the material, but this had already been cut by the tailor in pieces, and the deliverance now seemed to be impossible. But our friend, the journeyman, took the material, thinking that did not matter, and went with the hunter into the room intended for them. evening the journeyman laid the cloth on the table, and then turned his ring with the wish that the dwarfs, while the tailor was sleeping with his family, should come along and make up the dress. He then lay down to sleep. About twelve o'clock at night he woke up, and already two dwarfs stood by his bedside, who



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handed to him the finished garment. The journeyman rose and handed over the garment to the tailor, who went with it trembling to the king. The princess put it on, and lo! it fitted so well that no tailor in the world could have made it better. The tailor obtained the promised reward, and joyously ran home. But here he no longer found the two wanderers, for they had journeyed on while the tailor was with the king.

Greatly did our friend the journeyman rejoice in the thought that he had made the tailor happy, and perhaps had saved many from death. But the hunter was still more jealous of the tailor than before.

Again they had gone a long way, when they came to a very beautiful meadow, in the midst of which lay a They went up to examine what there monstrous stone. was under the stone. But how bring away the stone? Both together could not roll it over, and in any other way it could not be done. But the tailor turned his ring, and instantly the stone rolled from its position, and there was seen a great hollow in the earth. As they were both extremely curious, they wanted to know what was hidden under this hollow. So they agreed that one should be let down by the other. hunter wove ropes out of straw, bound them together into a fresh rope, which should serve for lowering. First the hunter let the tailor, now superior to him in spirit, down.

The tailor thought he had entered a new world; the beauty which reigned there surpassed all that he had ever seen. He went through a lovely garden and came to a castle. As he stood looking on in wonder, three princesses came out of the castle. They were sisters, princesses, and had been carried off by a dragon. So they had come into this castle, and their friends knew nothing of it. Daily the dragon flew away, and when he came back they had to wait upon him in the garden. Then he lay upon their bosom, and they had to stroke his back while he was fast asleep. The father of the princesses had promised the hand of his youngest daughter with his kingdom to the man who should free his daughters.

All three now greeted the tailor, and asked him whether he would deliver them; he must, however, they added, fight with a dragon. The tailor agreed. The princesses gave him a sword, and bade him wait behind a bush for the arrival of the dragon, while the princesses sat down upon a bank.

It was not long before the tailor heard a roaring, and flames sparkled in the air. The dragon came snorting into the garden and lay upon the bosoms of the princesses, and while they stroked him, he fell asleep.

Then the tailor came forth with the sword and thrust it into the neck of the dragon, thus slaying him and delivering the princesses. Quickly the tailor betook himself with the princesses to the opening, and called to the hunter to draw up first the princesses and then himself. The hunter did so; but when he had drawn the tailor only half-way up he cut the rope, and he fell back again.

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Hitherto the tailor had forgotten his ring, and therefore had to remain a certain time in the cavern.

Meanwhile his false comrade had gone with the princesses to the king, and had given himself out as their deliverer, and the wedding day was at hand. Then the tailor recollected his ring. He turned it. and in a moment hundreds of dwarfs were busy building a flight of stairs to lead to the opening of the hollow. When this was ready, the tailor went up and escaped into the open air. And now he turned the ring with the wish that a dwarf might come and show him the way to the king. A dwarf did appear and led him to the king. In his presence he maintained that he was the deliverer of the princesses, and the princesses confirmed his statement. The hunter was then presented with a casket of gold, but banished from the land. The tailor married a daughter of the king, and ruled happily and wisely over his subjects. Whether he is still living I know not.

THE THIRTEEN BROTHERS.

A POOR hunter had for a long time been able to kill no game. He was out of powder and shot, and was going to use his last bullet to put an end to his life. Just then something heavy flew over his head. In terror he let his rifle fall, and looking up, saw high on a tree a gigantic nest. 'Perhaps there are eggs in the nest,' he thought, and climbed up. And in fact he found four gigantic eggs in the nest, such that he could hardly carry them. 'How my wife will be pleased!' he said aloud, and carefully put the eggs in his wallet and came down. 'Destroy not what thou bearest,' he suddenly heard some one cry; 'destroy not, and thou shalt be happy.' The hunter did not like this, for his wife and three children had long been fasting.

A hare came along. The hunter seized his rifle, took aim, fired, and knocked over the hare. Thus his mind was set at rest, and the eggs might be placed in safety behind the oven. He sold the hare-skin, and bought some more powder and shot. But it was of no use, he could not prosper with his hunting. Old and skilful shot as he was, he could not bring down the game, and

his wife and children had nothing to eat. Then in his great distress he looked again at the nest on the high tree, went up, and found eight eggs. In the gladness of his heart he thanked God, but again heard the fatal words, 'Destroy not!' In great disappointment he came down, put up the eggs, and went home. A hare again crossed his path, and he fired and hit. 'Aha, 'tis so,' said the hunter to himself; 'I must come hither every day, and perhaps I shall be more lucky.' Next day he found only one egg in the nest, but, as before, he was strictly forbidden to destroy it.

Three weeks passed by, and the hunter had quite forgotten the eggs, and he was successful in the chase. One day he was sitting at home cleaning his rifle, when suddenly there was a rattling and crackling behind the oven, and before he could recover from his fright thirteen young fellows stood before him. 'In God's name, what would ye?' he exclaimed. 'If I had known what was hidden in the eggs, they would not have lain behind the oven.'

'Thou wouldst not have done well,' said the youngest; 'there are thirteen of us, and united what can we not do? Truly, we will never forget thee, and will richly reward thy good deed. Listen: the king needs warriors, he is hard pressed by foes; go, tell what thou knowest, and beg that we may serve in his army.'

It was long before the old hunter could recover from his fright, and especially he was disquieted by the commanding manner of the youngest brother.

'You must all obey the youngest, it seems,' said he; 'he speaks so cleverly, and has more sense than all of us together.' Then he took his hat, swung his wallet over his shoulder, and hastened to the king, in the company of the brothers. The king received them kindly, and had them summoned before his throne. He recognised the youngest as the cleverest, and made him captain. This vexed the others, and in their envy they determined to destroy him. Soon an opportunity offered. Not far from the city was a pasture, which had not been mown within the memory of man. It could not be mown, for thirteen horses always came running up, bending and trampling the grass, till nothing could be done with it. The thirteen brothers were to mow the pasture, and the twelve gladly undertook the task, because they thought to destroy their brother.

When they began to mow, immediately the thirteen horses appeared, and were going to play their old game. 'Let us take the horses,' said the youngest brother, 'each a horse, for we are just thirteen.' He ran to catch a horse. The brothers thought he would be torn to pieces; but, lo! each horse suffered him to touch it, and became tame in a moment. When the others saw this they ran up, and each tried to pick out the best horse; and in the end only a lean white horse remained to the youngest. And the white horse said, 'Be content with me, Lion-tooth, for I will make thee lucky if thou hearkenest to me.' Our Lion-tooth was astonished

at the words of the horse, giving him a name he did not deserve, and promising him good fortune should he follow his advice.

The king hearing of the adventure, became also afraid of Lion-tooth, and devised means to destroy him. His bride had been carried off from him some time ago, and he sent Lion-tooth with the commission to bring her back.

Fully trusting in his horse, Lion-tooth rode forth The horse knew the way, and also the means of releasing the lady. One morning they rode past a pool; there lay a carp in the mud unable to help itself. In pity Lion-tooth put it in the water, and the carp promised that he would help him in time of need. He rode on, and found a dog tied by a chain to a rock. him free, and the dog vowed gratitude. Also an eagle he set free, and the bird promised the like. At last they came to the witch, as she was called, and she barred them up in the pig-sty, and gave them human flesh to eat. The horse ate nothing, nor did Liontooth. In order now to release the princess, the trial was imposed upon Lion-tooth of riding three mad horses. The horse gave him his saddle, which was so heavy, that the other horses had to slip under it. Restively the first horse reared, but the saddle was too heavy for him, and he soon sunk down on the earth. Then he was changed into a hare, and hunted from the spot. 'Ah, if I had a dog now,' said Lion-tooth, and instantly he saw a dog hunting the hare, and soon bring

it down. Lion-tooth gratefully took the hare, and threw it at the witch's feet. Next day he rode a still more restive horse, but the saddle was too heavy for him, and he fell upon the earth, and was changed to a 'The eagle might do me a good turn,' thought Lion-tooth, and soon the eagle flew up, bearing the bird. Gnashing her teeth, the witch took it. Lion-tooth had to ride the most vicious horse of all. As he was about to mount, the witch came behind, and was going to touch him with a rod. But Lion-tooth had watched her, and snatching the rod from her hand, beat her with it. She was turned into a stone, and the horse rose high into the air, and went round in a circle seven times. Then he was changed into a fish, and vanished in the sea. And now the carp discharged his debt. He disgorged the fish on the shore, and Liontooth, cutting open his belly, found a key therein, opened the room where the princess was confined, and led her to her bridegroom. But on no account would she marry the king. Her bridal dress was with a magician, and she must have it first. Lion-tooth was sent for it, and after passing through many dangers, he brought her a closed chest. 'But I have no key,' said the princess, and Lion-tooth brought it. But how astonished were the king and Lion-tooth when the chest was opened: there was nothing but an old sword. The princess bade them both kneel down, and was about to behead them. 'He who has noble blood,' said she, 'will come to life again.' Lion-tooth had nothing to lose, and knelt down; but the king was most reluctant, and only the conviction that he had noble blood in his veins induced him at last to lose his head. Then, lo! Lion-tooth came to life again, and the king was dead for good and all. Then the princess wedded Lion-tooth, and the people joyously greeted him as their king; for all loved him except twelve evil hearts, who envied his happiness.

His brothers restlessly sought to destroy him, though he had given them all high positions in the land. With a large sum they bribed a witch, and she threw a spell on the king as he was out hunting. Great was the queen's grief when she learned that her consort had disappeared. The whole city mourned for the king, while the brothers rejoiced to be rid of him, and one of them aspired to the hand of the queen. But she suspected their villainy, and they were all deprived of their offices, and had to flee. But first they tried to steal and kill the white horse, who had delivered the king from so many dangers; but the horse made such a noise, that the servants awoke in time to save him. queen fed him with her own hand, and learned from him that the king was not dead, but under a spell. Then she mounted the horse, and went off at a gallop. On the way the horse expressed the wish that she would take the first creature that particularly pleased her. the forest she caught a nightingale which particularly pleased her. Then she mounted, and rode on. ing a spring, she had to dip the nightingale in three Hellish forms peeped forth, and threatened to

drown her, but the queen was not to be daunted; and as she splashed the bird for the third time, the king stood before her, and in joy thanked her for the deliverance. Both mounted the faithful steed, and rode home. The people greeted them with shouts of joy, and the black garments were replaced by red.

The twelve brothers were duly punished. When they heard that the king lived, they mounted and left the city in haste; but the king pursued, and found them sitting by a fire cooking their supper. He threw his rod, which he had obtained from the witch, into the fire, and a rock started up, which buried men and horses beneath it. Then he rode home, again celebrated his wedding, and lived happily the rest of his days.

The old hunter still lived, and was highly respected. He gave his daughter in marriage to the king's son, and at the wedding this story was put into a cannon, and shot forth to this place.

STUPID PETER.

ONCE there was a boy who was generally called stupid Peter. His parents had early died, and he had grown up without having learned anything. He only knew how to warble like a singing bird, and could perfectly mimic the song of the lark.

One day Peter was very hungry, and went into a peasant's house and asked for food. The peasant's wife gave him the remains of their meal, and he sat down on the ground and ate. Suddenly a knight came up, stopped at the cottage, and asked the way to the castle. where dwelt the mightiest giant of the earth. would you do at the castle?' asked the woman, who knew where it was. The knight replied, 'I would fetch the golden cup which has the power to cure the sick if they drink out of it, and to wake the dead if it is held to their lips; and then the diamond lance which breaks everything asunder, and slays those that are touched by it.' 'To whom belongs the castle?' asked Peter; and the woman answered, 'To the giant, a magician; and he has living with him a brother, also a magician.' But the knight said, 'The foe of the magician is on my side, and he has told me all that I am to

do.' 'What did he tell you?' asked Peter. 'He told me that first I must ride through an enchanted forest, then I shall meet a dwarf, with a fiery sword, who watches an apple-tree full of golden fruit, of which I must have one. Then I shall find the laughing flower guarded by a lion. I must pluck this flower and swim through the Dragon Lake, and fight with the giant, who has a ball that never misses its mark. Afterwards I shall come into a pleasure-garden, and there am not to suffer myself to be led astray. Then I must pass through a river, and on its further shore I shall find a woman. Her I am to place on my horse, and she will tell me what further I have to do.'

The peasant woman showed the knight the way, and he soon disappeared behind the trees. Then the peasant came home, and asked Peter if he would stay with him and mind the cattle. Peter agreed and became herdsman.

One day he saw a giant with a diamond lance riding up. He instantly thought it must be that of which the knight had spoken. Behind the giant ran a foal.

Peter thought no more about it, and several days passed. One evening there came an old man and stood still near the forest. Peter went up to him and said, 'Who are you?' 'I am a mighty magician,' was the reply, 'and my brother is a giant.' Then he made some circles in the sand, muttered some words, and the foal which Peter had before seen appeared. The man mounted and rode off into the forest. This struck

Peter as strange, but he told no one of what had happened. He tried to conjure up the foal, making circles in the sand, and muttering some words, but the foal appeared not.

Next day Peter saw the giant again riding into the forest, and felt the desire to go and see the castle. So he kept a bridle and a noose always ready, and filled a sack with feathers and bird-lime. He also strewed the way with bread-crumbs to detain the foal, hoping that next day the giant would ride by again. The giant duly appeared, the foal snuffed at the bread-crumbs, and loitering behind devoured them. When the giant was at a sufficient distance, Peter quietly threw the bridle on the foal, mounted, and was borne through the enchanted forest.

Soon they reached the pasture where stood the appletree. It was watched by a dwarf with a fiery sword, which destroyed all that it touched. When the dwarf saw Peter he gave a loud cry and brandished his sword. But Peter took off his cap, and said, 'I am bound for the castle, because the lord of it has bidden me.' 'Who art thou, then?' asked the dwarf. 'Stupid Peter, a bird-catcher, and I must to the castle to catch sparrows, for the lord has bidden me, and has given me his foal for the purpose.'

The dwarf recognised the giant's foal, and thought the story must be true. 'Now,' said he, 'if thou art a good bird-catcher catch me some, for I have many sparrows here.' Peter made as if he would tie the colt to the tree; but instead of that he bound the noose fast to a branch, and called to the dwarf to hold the other end. The dwarf did so, and Peter climbed up the tree, pulled the noose tight, and the dwarf was caught. Quickly Peter plucked an apple, jumped down, and left the dwarf writhing in his bonds.

In a few hours' time he came to a pasture covered with beautiful flowers. From the midst of them one of particular beauty lifted its head; it was the laughing flower. The lion who guarded it came rushing up and showed Peter his teeth. Peter took off his cap, saluted the lion, and asked if this was the way to the castle. 'And what wouldst thou there?' asked the lion. have to bring the lord of the castle a sack full of larks.' 'How many hast thou there?' 'The whole sack full,' said Peter, and showed the lion his sack full of feathers and bird-lime. Then he began to imitate the song of the lark, and the lion was still more deceived. 'Show me the birds,' said the lion, 'I will see whether they are fat enough for our lord.' 'I would,' said Peter, 'only if I open the sack they will fly away.'

'Let me at least peep in.' Peter opened the sack a little way, and the lion eagerly put his head in, but remained sticking in the lime and feathers. Peter quickly ran for the laughing flower, plucked it, and hastened away.

Then he came to the Dragon Lake, and he must

swim through. Instantly the dragons came and opened their monstrous jaws to devour him. Peter quickly took the bacon out of his pocket, threw a piece into the jaws of each, and swam across the lake.

When he came to the other shore he saw the black giant with the ball. He sat on a rock, his feet were fast soldered down to it, and in his hand he held the ball. There were six eyes in his great head. Luckily for Peter the two eyes which looked in his direction were closed.

Peter dismounted and hid behind a bush, and began to sing like a lark, and the giant closed one eye. Then he imitated the nightingale's warble, and the giant closed two more eyes. Then he piped an air on his pipe, and the last eye of the giant closed. Swiftly then he mounted the colt, and passing by the giant came to the pleasure-garden. It was full of beautiful flowers and fruits, and at each end stood covered tables loaded with the most dainty dishes. But Peter drew his cap over his eyes and went on.

And now he had to swim across a river. On the other shore sat a woman clothed in black, and her face was yellow. 'Come hither,' she said, 'that I may take my seat by thee on the horse.' Peter did so, and asked, 'What is thy name?' 'Pest!' answered the woman. Peter was alarmed, and was about to plunge into the river, but the Pest said, 'Only remain in your seat, I will help thee, and the magician shall die. Thou must

give him the apple thou hast plucked from the tree that was guarded by the dwarf. He will taste of it, and then I shall touch him and he will die.' 'But how shall I get the lance and the cup?' asked Peter. 'The laughing flower will open all doors, and even the iron door which closes the room where lie the lance and the cup,' answered the woman.

At last they reached the castle. The giant magician lay under a throne smoking. When he saw Peter, he cried, 'What, stupid Peter riding on my colt?' 'Yes, said he, 'thy brother gave me the colt that I might bring thee two presents, an apple, and this woman who sits upon the horse.' Peter let her dismount, and gave the giant the apple.

The giant immediately ate of it, and the Pest, running up, touched him, and he sank down dead upon the ground. Peter wandered through all the halls of the castle, and came at last to an iron door. It sprang open before the laughing flower which he held in his hand, and there he found the cup and the lance.

As he removed them the earth quaked and the castle vanished. Peter found himself in a dense forest; he went on and reached a city. The king was besieged by his foes, and promised his daughter to him who should deliver the city. Peter went forthwith to the king and obtained permission to take part in the battle. He placed himself at the head of the army, and all fell that were touched by his lance. If one of his own



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men fell he hastened up and held the golden cup to his lips, and instantly the dead man stood up again. And so they gained the day. Peter received the princess to wife, and became king over the whole land.

THE MAGIC POT AND THE MAGIC BALL.

In a village there lived a long time ago a poor sexton who earned a hard living for himself and family. His wife dealt in eggs, which she took to the next Suddenly she lost nearly all her hens, and was compelled to sell the last. She went to the town with a basket containing the hen upon her back. lay over a steep mountain, and she sat down by the way to rest a little. Suddenly a little man sprang out of the bushes; he had a long white beard. He came up to the frightened woman, and asked whither she was 'To the town to sell my last hen,' she said. The little man answered, 'If thou wilt, I will give thee a pot for thy hen.' The woman laughed, and said, 'Thou must not think I know not the price of pot and of hen.' But the little man replied, 'Laugh not too soon, but see first whether the hen or the pot is worth most; if thou wilt not exchange, I will not compel thee.' After a little consideration the woman agreed to the exchange. The little man vanished, and after some time came back with a rusty pot, and said, 'With this

pot their canst get all thou wishest. Wouldst thou use it place it in the shade, cover it, and say, "Fill threelf, pot," and thou wilt see that the pot hearkens; only take care never to clean it, or let the sun shine on it. The woman took the pot, promised to observe the directions, and went home. So soon as she got there, she wished to ascertain whether the pot actually had these properties. She went into the shade, covered it, and said: 'Pot, fill thyself with milk.' Taking the cover away, the pot was full of milk to the brim. She new sought her husband, and told him of their good fortune.

For a long time the pot had done good service in the family, but after long use it became blacker, and shone like ivory. So the woman one day rubbed the black pot clear and set it in the sun. When it was dry it shone like pure gold. She was very rejoiced at this, and wanted to carry the pot into the room, but scarce had she stretched out her hand than she received so hard a blow that she fell down in a faint. When she came to herself the pot had vanished. And now for the first time she recollected that she had transgressed the command; and in place of superfluity there was in the house. So the wife told her husband he hetter go for once to the town, and perhaps he

The serious went to his neighbour, bought a lamb of the serious it to the town. Coming to the mountains and the same spot where his wife had

rested some time before. He remained some time, but no little man appeared. At last he rose and went on, when suddenly there was a rustling in the bushes, and the little man stood before him. 'Whither away?' he asked. The sexton crossed himself, and answered with trembling voice, 'I am driving this lamb to the city to sell it there.' Said the little man, 'Thy trouble is vain, tor there are so many sheep on the market to-day that thy lamb will be unnoticed; but if thou wilt, I will give thee a ball for it.' 'I shall gain nothing by this exchange,' said the sexton, 'for if I sell my lamb, I can buy plenty of balls.' Then said the little man, 'Be not so hasty, I know not whether thou canst buy such as I possess; but if thou wilt not make the exchange, keep thy lamb, I want it not.' The sexton, thinking of the pot, at last agreed to the exchange. The dwarf disappeared, and some time after returned with a ball, which seemed to be of wood. Then he said to the sexton, 'If thou wouldst use this ball, lay it on the earth and say, "Ball, be polite and take off your hat!" and thou wilt see the effect. But take care to leave nothing open when thou usest the ball.' The sexton took it, but so heavy was it, he could scarce hold it. He wrapped it in a cloth and hastened home full of joy. When he got there he resolved to make the trial, and closing all windows and doors, laid the ball on the earth, saying, 'Ball, be polite and take your cap off!' The ball began to roll about, and with increasing violence, until at last it divided into two parts, and a

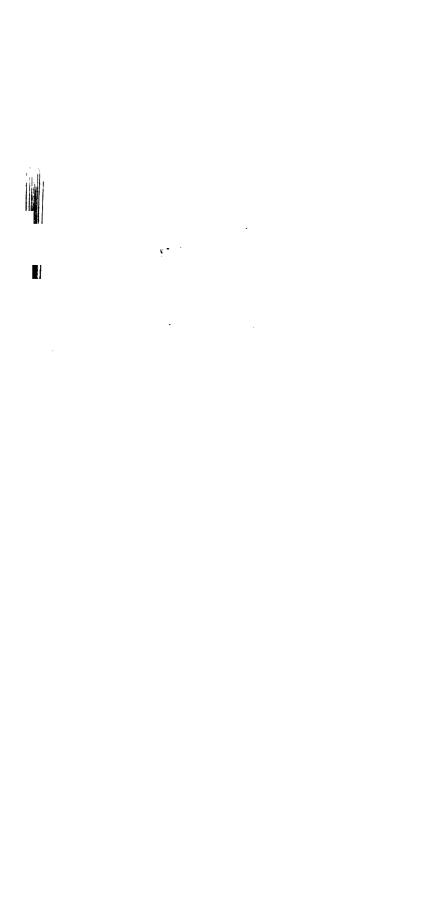
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number of little men jumped out and covered the table with golden dishes and dainty meats; then they vanished into the ball again. The family sat down to table, and enjoyed themselves. Scarce had they finished, when the ball divided, and the same little men who had set the table cleared it, and vanished with the golden dishes into the ball, which closed again when all were inside.

Long the family possessed the ball, and they acted more carefully than they had done in the case of the pot. But gradually it became known in the village that the sexton had a magical ball, and it came also to the ears of the abbot of the monastery. He sent for the sexton, and asked whether what folk said was true. At first the sexton would not confess, but when the abbot threatened him with dismissal, he told the whole truth. The abbot bade him bring the ball. He obeyed, and having explained how the ball had to be dealt with, the abbot dismissed him, promising to procure him a better post. But the sexton had to wait a long time, and he resolved to go once more to the mountain and ask the little man for another ball. So he bought a pair of oxen, and drove them towards the town. Coming to the mountain he rested. Scarce had he sat down, when lo! the little man was before him. He asked, 'Comest thou to fetch another ball?' 'Yes,' was the sexton's 'But I should like a better ball, and so I have brought a pair of oxen.' 'Thou shalt have it,' said the little man, and disappearing, presently returned with a somewhat larger ball than the first. This he



"A number of little men jumped out and covered the table with golden dishes and dainty meals."—Page 104.



gave to the sexton, with the words, 'What thou hast to do thou knowest.' The sexton bowed and went his way. Coming home he shut all the doors and windows, laid the ball on the ground, and said, 'Ball, be polite and take off your cap!' It began to roll about, and that even more quickly, and at last divided; but, oh horror! instead of little men with golden dishes came two giants with huge cudgels out of the ball, and beat them all so unmercifully, that they lay swooning on the ground. Then the giants went back into the ball. The sexton recovered first, and he determined to avenge himself on the father abbot. He took the ball and went to him, but was refused admission because there were guests. The sexton was all the better pleased, and sent word to the abbot that he had now a much better ball. He was immediately summoned, and the abbot bade him show the trick before the whole company. The sexton put the ball on the ground, and said, 'Ball, be polite and take off your cap!' Then the ball divided into two halves, and the two giants fell with their clubs on the defenceless guests, and beat them so severely that they fell like clods on the ground. Only the abbot retained his senses, and cried out to the sexton, bidding him quiet the two devils. But the sexton answered, 'They will not rest until I have my old ball.' 'There is the key to yonder chest, and in it is the ball,' said the abbot, and the two giants went back into the ball. The sexton went to the chest, took the other, and went home with both of them.

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For a long time he used the smaller ball. One day he had invited some friends, and when all were assembled, he took the ball, laid it on the ground, and said, 'Ball, be polite and take off your cap!' The ball began to roll about; but meanwhile some one came into the room, and the ball flew through the door into the open air. All rushed out and pursued the ball; but it rolled faster and faster, and at last divided, and out came a number of little men, with all sorts of golden things, and hastened away to the mountains, where they still keep the gold. The other ball had also fled through the open door, and had likewise split open. But out of it came no little men, but a host of giants, who also fled to the mountains. And there they stay all the time.

THERE was once a king who had an old shepherd, and when the shepherd fell sick and died another shepherd was needed, for the sheep could not be left The king without some one to take care of them. therefore caused it to be made known in his land that the old shepherd was dead, and he was about to take a new one into his service. At the same time there came a young lad into the city, and he went to the king and said, 'I am a shepherd, and as I heard that you were in need of one, I will, if it please your majesty, tend your sheep.' The king was pleased with the young man, and bade him come again next morning. Early next morning when the shepherd came the king took his hand and led him to the fold. The sheep appeared very lean, for they had not been to the pasture for a long time, and they had no other fodder. When the king had put the shepherd in charge of the sheep he went away.

The young shepherd took his crook and his pipe, let the flock out of the fold, and drove them out of the city.

When he had left the city gate he thought with himself how he could find a good pasturing-place for his starved flock. But it was not easy at that time of the year to find one, for it was already late in the harvest.

After they had made a long circuit our shepherd came with his sheep to a mighty forest, with lofty trees, before which there was a pasture with plenty of flourishing grass. The hungry sheep soon spread over it, and it tasted excellent, so that they soon grew fat upon it. Well pleased, the shepherd sat down, took his pipe in his hand and played. After a while seven little hump-backed men came out of the forest. The shepherd did not see them until they were close to him, leaping and dancing about and making the strangest gestures in the world. Though at first very much astonished, he soon took a fancy to the little men, and piped to them while they danced. So the time was whiled away till sunset, and the shepherd was so amused that he forgot he had had no dinner.

As soon as the first star appeared in heaven the little men vanished from the pasture, and the shepherd joyously drove his well-fed sheep homewards. Now, when the king looked at the sheep and saw how they had gained in flesh, he was highly delighted. But when the flock was counted seven sheep were missing. The shepherd was thunderstruck, and could not say what had become of these seven sheep. This time the king said he would forgive him, because the flock was so

well fed. But meantime the sheep lost all the flesh over-night, and were next morning as lean as before. The reason was that they had eaten the grass of a magical pasture, and the effect of such food only lasts until midnight. Not troubling himself about this, the shepherd drove his sheep again to the rich pasture, but made up his mind to watch them better.

The sheep grazed and the shepherd played on his pipe. Soon the little men came along, hopped about, and kept up their fun the whole day, just as they had done the day before.

In the evening when the king counted the flock seven more were missing. This time he could not pass the matter by. To punish him the shepherd received no pay, and the king threatened to drive him away if the like occurred again. Our friend the shepherd was very much troubled by this threat, and he began to consider who could be the thief—whether it was a wolf or the little men.

Nevertheless he drove his flock the third day to the old pasturing-ground, for he was so delighted with the tricks of the tiny creatures. This time the little men were on the lookout for him, and begged him to play to them on his pipe. The good-hearted fellow could not refuse, and the little men danced and skipped.

In the evening the shepherd drove the flock home, but again seven sheep were wanting. Then the king was in a rage, and said, 'Take notice, thou art dismissed my service; early to-morrow morning quit the

city!' Next morning the shepherd sadly departed from the castle, in which he had served only three days.

Very downcast he came to the pasture-ground, and throwing himself into the grass, exclaimed, What am I to do now, poor wight that I am, with no service, no bread, winter at the door, and starvation staring me in the face?' He wept, and a thousand times repented of having driven his flock to this haunted pasture.

Suddenly a grey dwarf stood before the shepherd, and said, 'Be quiet, and listen to me, for I am he who thrice stole from thee seven sheep.' 'Thou art that rogue?' cried the shepherd, 'then give them back to me again.' The little man answered, 'I have the sheep no longer, but the loss shall be made up to thee richly, never fear. Look at me. Many years ago I had a different appearance, for then I was king of the dwarfs. I will tell thee how I lost the rule over my people. The king of serpents, that is the dragon, went forth once with all his serpents to seek a comfortable and fine dwelling for the winter. Then heard the monster of my dwarf mountain, which looks so splendid, and of the great treasure that we guard, and he hastened into our kingdom. My dwarfs could not resist the serpents, for each of them gave a dwarf a deadly bite. Only I and my seven children were spared by the serpents, who thereupon took possession of my dwelling, and since then came back every winter. My golden garment was changed into this grey one; and because I had done many kind things to the people in former

times, I was condemned by the serpents, who are the enemies of mankind, to do them harm. And so I was obliged to steal seven sheep from you three times over, and I did this at the time when my children were dancing round you, and you were not taking heed of the flock. Forgive me, and be sure I did it only for my children's sake, who were very hungry, for the dragon gives us nothing to eat in summer—only in winter-time do we get anything. Our duty is to watch on behalf of the serpents, and guard them from danger. But now I have supped full of sorrow, and pray thee, young man, to be our deliverer! Thou shalt have the whole treasure for thy reward.' 'Right willingly,' answered the shepherd, 'but how?' 'Follow me,' said the dwarf, and now both went into the forest, in the midst of which arose a mighty mountain.

When these two came to the mountain, the dwarf-king said to the shepherd, 'Climb the mountain-peaks, and there thou shalt find a tree, and under the tree a black stone; take this out, dig below it, and thou wilt find a golden casket. In it there is a sword, a white cloth, and a crystal vessel with a salve. Take this casket out, and bring it to me. And now go, I protect thee.'

The shepherd went up without risk, found all as the dwarf had said, and brought the casket down.

Now again spoke the dwarf-king, giving up the casket to our shepherd, 'Rub thy body with the salve in the crystal vessel, that the poison of the serpent may not

hurt thee; then take the sword and the napkin, hide in the thicket, and wait for the serpent; for this is the day on which they come to the mountain to sleep over the winter. When all the serpents are within the mountain, step out after a while, go to the place where the serpents creep into the mountain, pluck a flower which grows on the spot, touch the mountain with it, it will open, and thou canst enter. The easiest way to slay the dragon will be to get on his back, for then he cannot hurt thee. Take up the sword in the right hand, and with the left spread out the white cloth over the crown which the dragon bears on his head, and take it away. this is done the dragon will awake, and with him the serpents. They will together rush upon thee, but only hew lustily about thee, and come not down from the back of the dragon. Then he will fly away with thee. If in thy flight thou art aware of waters under thee. then strike with the crown wrapped up in the cloth upon the nead of the dragon seven times. Then the dragon will rush into the water, and thou wilt fall upon a ship, which will bring thee safe to shore. When thou art ashore cast the crown on the earth, step on it, and say, "I would be with the dwarfs!" and in a moment thou art with us, and receivest thy reward. Now I bid thee a hearty farewell; be of good courage, and trust in our invisible help!' The king of the dwarfs vanished.

The shepherd now got behind a bush, and rubbed his body with the salve, took the sword in his right hand, the white cloth in the left, and thus equipped



waited for the serpents. Soon they were heard hissing and coming on. The king serpent crept in front. When he came up to the mountain he tore out a green herb with his tongue, and touched the mountain with it; the mountain broke open and he crept in. His example was followed by a long train of serpents, and when the last had glided into the mountain, the rock closed.

After a while our shepherd came out, and touched the rock with the enchanted herb, as he had seen the serpents do, and the rock opened.

The shepherd now went into the interior of the mountain, and after he had passed through a splendid series of passages and rooms, he came into a hall, with most costly adornments, the walls of which were of gold, richly set with precious stones. In the midst stood a crystal table, on which, rolled up, lay the serpent king, and on the ground round the table slept the other serpents.¹

Bravely the shepherd stepped over the serpents, without his hurting them, or they him, and, jumping on the table, got on the dragon's back, and took away his crown with his hand wrapped in the white cloth. Scarcely was this done before the dragon stretched himself out, and now the shepherd bestrode the dragon, as if he were going to ride.

¹ During the winter sleep the serpents are without feeling, and rigid, as if of stone. First awakes the oldest serpent (the dragon); he then awakes the others, crying, 'It is time!'

In his wrath the dragon spouted fire from his jaws, and the awakened serpents sprang upon the shepherd, and were about to bite him, but the latter cut off every serpent's head that came in his way. And now the dragon got wings, and with a great noise rose, broke through the upper part of the mountain, and gained the open air. With the shepherd on his back, he flew, swift as an arrow, over mountain and valley. When the shepherd suddenly saw waters beneath him, he struck the dragon with the crown seven times on the head, and lo! the dragon sank with fearful howling into the sea.

The shepherd fell, as the dwarf had foretold, upon a ship, and this brought him to the shore. Arrived there, he remembered the words of the dwarf king, and cast the crown on the earth, stepped upon it, and said, 'I would be with the dwarfs!' In a moment he was at the desired place, and stood before the smoking mountain, among the rejoicing dwarfs, who greeted him as their deliverer.

With many thanks the dwarf king handed over the great treasure to the shepherd, who was now passing rich, and bought his land from the king whom he had formerly served, married one of his daughters, and lived many years happily.

But the dwarfs departed into another land and settled there

Most of the serpents were burned or crushed by the falling mountain; but those who succeeded





in creeping through or escaping were so dazzled by the heat that they all became blind, and are so to this day. Since this time folk say there are indeed water-lizards, but few serpents, and no dragons anywhere.

HOW A SHEPHERD BECAME RICH.

A SHEPHERD tended his flock in the pasture. It was a warm summer's day, and the flock wandered into the neighbouring forest to gain shelter from the heat. When the shepherd had tried in vain to gather the sheep together, he got out of temper, and, leaving the sheep to themselves, went forth into the wide world.

He was used to travelling, and it was not long before he stood in front of the gate of the chief city, which he had never before seen. He saw much to wonder at, and often stood still with open mouth, like the cow before the new stable-door. Among others he noticed a man with blue trousers and white coat. Astonished at such apparel, he asked of a bystander, 'Friend, can you not tell me who is the lord yonder in the white coat and blue trousers?' 'That is a soldier,' replied the bystander. 'Soldier? what is a soldier?' asked the shepherd. 'The soldier is in the service of the king, and receives pay; he has to mount guard, and to go to the wars,' said the townsman. 'Now, suppose I happened to like such a situation,' replied the shepherd,

'might I be a soldier?' 'Of course, and you would be in the nick of time just now, for the king wants a number of men, as he is probably going to war with the neighbouring king.'

When the shepherd had asked various other questions, he went into the royal castle and was enlisted. The next day the new-made soldier strode proudly through the streets of the chief city, and plumed himself not a little upon his smart uniform.

Scarcely could our soldier march under his arms, and knew how to right-face and left-face, than his turn came to mount guard, and that in the night time. This would not have put him about, for he was no chicken-heart; but, as he heard from a comrade, his life was at stake. For he had to mount guard by the 'Devil's Rock' from eleven to twelve o'clock; and about this time the devil was at his pranks on the spot, and had already torn many a sentinel in pieces. The shepherd was quite beside himself, and thought how he could escape this danger. At midday, when his comrades were eating their dinner in barracks, the shepherd got ready unobserved for a journey, and quickly left the city. Outside he met an old man, who asked the soldier the cause of his haste. The shepherd, wont to speak with openness and truth, trusted the old man with his story. The latter said, 'My son, thou art doing an ill thing in running away; go back, take your place at the dreaded post, only forget not with the consecrated bayonet to draw a circle round thee. If thou

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followest my advice, not a hair of thy head shall be touched.' The words of the old man went to the heart of the young runaway. So he right-about-faced, and marched back into the city.

It had not yet struck eleven when our soldier stood by the Devil's Rock, and having, according to the advice of the old man, drawn a circle about him, and in this way kept his skin from the reach of the devil's claws and teeth, he pluckily awaited whatever was next to happen. About eleven o'clock came the Evil Spirit. and rushed at the sentinel. But when he came to the circle he could get no farther, and cried out, snorting with rage, 'Come forth, or I will rend thee to pieces!' The soldier neither answered nor moved from the spot. The devil made the same demand a second time, but in vain. Thereupon, in desperation, he said, 'Thou art the first who hast bidden defiance to my power. For this deed thou shalt have a reward from me. Come hither!' The soldier bethought him a while, and then followed the devil. The latter strode suddenly to a particular spot on the rock, and struck with a golden rod on the rock, which immediately opened. Both went in. Here the astonished young soldier was shown a mass of gold, silver, and pearls. On their return the devil gave our shepherd three precious things, and said, 'If thou needest money, come to this rock, strike with the golden rod which I here present to thee upon it, and it will open to thee, whereupon thou canst take as much of the treasures as thou hast need of. This little bottle contains a fluid of such quality that if a little be applied to the walls of any castle it will immediately open. The third is this black root. If thou layest it upon a heap of money, instantly the rightly gotten will be distinguished from the unjustly gotten.' Having said this, the devil vanished.

The soldier was about to repair to his post, but another sentinel stood there. So he went to the officer and told him what had occurred. could now get enough money without much trouble, he quitted the service of the king, and led henceforward a quiet life, not forgetting to be kind to the poor. He sent to his shoemaker, who was very needy, for every time he mended his boots, a ducat. The poor shoemaker praised the great liberality of his benefactor wherever he came. One morning the rich shepherd said to the shoemaker, who had just brought the boots. 'I have already done thee much good, but it is too I will make thee a rich man, so come to me this evening at nightfall.' Beside himself with joy, the shoemaker left the shepherd, and had now nothing more urgent to do than to trumpet forth his approaching good luck to everybody whom he met. One told another, and so the news went through the town, until the king himself heard of it. He had the shoemaker brought before him, and after questioning him closely on the matter, he said, 'I will make you rich if you will let me go to-day with the shepherd in your stead,

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and will lend me your clothes.' The cobbler agreed, and promised to be silent about the matter.

When it was dark the king went in the cobbler's garments to the shepherd, who was already expecting him. In the darkness the king remained unrecognised. Both now went into the house of a merchant, notorious for craft and usury. Moistened with the magic water, all locks sprang open, and so they got to the So soon as this was opened, the shepherd laid the black root on the money, and lo! almost half of the money, namely, that which had been unjustly acquired, flew out, and was seized by the king, the shepherd calling out to him, 'Lay hold! take as much as you can!' As the two left the merchant's house, the disguised king said, 'Now we are going into the royal treasury, are we not?' 'Have you not enough here that you want more? I have not yet been in, and do not go in to-day,' answered the honest shepherd. But the king gave him no rest until he yielded, and turned his steps to the treasure-house. Arrived in the interior, the shepherd laid the black root on the money, but nothing moved from its place. The king listened eagerly for the command of the shepherd to lay hold, but the shepherd was silent; and when the king plunged his hand into the money, in order to take some with him, the shepherd. full of indignation at the rash deed, said, 'Instantly let that go, or I will cut your arm in two, for observe. I take only ill-gotten money.' Thereupon they both

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left the treasure-house, and took leave of one another before its door. Then said the shepherd to the supposed shoemaker, 'Because thou wast poor, I desired to make thee rich; but scarce hast thou seen the glitter of the gold than thou becomest covetous. Go from me, and never again expect my help.'

The next day the king caused the shepherd to be fetched, and praised him for his honesty, revealing the secret of the preceding night. Then he begged him that he would continue in the same way to benefit the poor. The shepherd did so, and lived to make himself and other people happy. When he came to die, he left the three magic things to the king.

THE THREE BOXES.

There was once a poor, very poor, peasant woman, who had a little girl named Anna Maria. Once, as Anna Maria was going to school, she met an old man, who begged for a bit of something to eat. As Anna Maria was a kind-hearted girl, she had compassion on him, because others despised him, and gave him the greater part of what she had for breakfast. As the old man departed, he gave her three pretty, pretty boxes, and told her that she must not open them until three years had gone by. Anna Maria took the boxes, and the old man disappeared.

When three years had passed, the mother was dead, and Anna Maria had a wicked, wicked step-mother instead. It was now hard times for her. The step-mother could not bear her, and when Anna Maria wept she called her an everlasting cry-baby. Besides, she had to work harder than she had ever known in her life before. Once she had to make a garment that should be as shining as the sun. And because she could not do it, she began to weep. Suddenly the thought of the three boxes came

into her mind, and she ran home and opened one of them.

As she looked in she saw a beautiful, beautiful garment, as shining as the sun. Full of joy, she took it out, ran to her step-mother, and gave it to her. latter turned up her nose at the garment, and in a passion immediately said that Anna Maria must spin a linen garment, fifty ells broad, yet that might be passed through a finger-ring. Anna Maria went away, and opened the second box, and took out a linen garment fifty ells broad, yet which went through the ring as easily as if it was nothing at all. Full of joy, she took it to her step-mother, who was full of spite when she saw it, because she believed that it had been spun by Anna Maria, and bade her build a castle all of glass, as high as the highest mountain. Anna Maria went her way, took the last box, went out, opened it, when suddenly it disappeared, and instead of the box there stood the castle, all of glass, and as high as the highest mountain. When the step-mother saw it, she came out and ran up the staircase. When she was at the top, she stumbled, fell over, and broke her neck. Anna Maria came up after, and when she got to the top a prince came to meet her, who wedded her, and Anna Maria became a great, great queen; and if she is not dead by this time, then she is still living.

FOR ONE KREUZER A HUNDRED.

THERE was once a widow who had a son, whom she brought up like a good Christian, and diligently sent to church. Once in a sermon the boy heard the words, 'He who gives anything to the poor is paid back by God a hundredfold.' So the boy put a kreuzer in the alms-bag, and then began to hope from day to day that God would come to him to pay him back a hundred kreuzers. But, as he waited in vain, he went to the minister and told him all. The clergyman explained to him that his words were to be understood quite differently. But the boy would not be content with this. In order to get rid of him, the clergyman gave him the advice to bestir himself, and seek for the good God, and perhaps He would meet him, and pay the hundred kreuzers. The boy went home immediately, tied his bundle, bade good-bye to his mother, and wandered forth.

As evening fell, he saw a hut before him, and going in, asked the peasant for bed and supper. The peasant asked him whither he was going. 'I am going to look for the Almighty,' he said. The peasant was surprised,

and promised him supper and bed if he would carry his greeting to the Almighty, and would ask Him why his apple-tree, which had before borne so much fruit, now bore no longer. The boy promised, and in the morning went on his way.

In the evening he came to a great town, in the midst of which stood the royal castle. He entered, and asked again for supper and bed, telling at the same time the object of his journey. The king was informed, and had the boy called to him, and finally gave him a commission to offer a greeting to the Almighty, and to ask Him why the water of the castle well, formerly so wholesome and pure, had now become polluted and stinking. The boy promised this also, and next morning, with hearty thanks, went on his way.

In the evening he felt very weary, and happily espying a monastery, he went in. Here too he begged for supper and bed, and told the porter for whom he was seeking. The porter told the prior, and the prior gave the boy the commission, in case he should meet the Saviour, that he would offer Him greeting, and ask Him why in that monastery, formerly so quiet and peaceful, there was now always quarrelling going on about twelve o'clock at noon. The boy promised this also, and went on his way. But it had rained the whole night, and in the morning the rain gushed down in torrents. The boy was already wet to the skin, when all of a sudden he saw a man with a great red umbrella before him. He hastened to overtake him, and begged

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that he might walk under the umbrella. This was permitted, and as they went the boy told the stranger why he had undertaken the journey. The stranger smilingly listened, and said to him, 'Thou mayest have far yet to go before thou meetest the Saviour; but if thou wilt follow me, turn round and say to that peasant: In former times the branches of the tree hung over the hedge, and the poor got much good from its fruit, but lately he has moved the hedge further up. Move the hedge back, and the tree will become fruitful again. But only say this to the peasant when he has promised thee the hundred kreuzers. Say to the king: Since he took the water of the brook from other men, it became so bad. Let him open the well to the public use again, and the water will recover its former sweetness. only say this when he has promised thee a hundred thalers for the explanation. And in the monastery say that the cook is the devil of dissension, and they must get rid of him as quickly as possible. But first he must pay out a hundred guldens.' So saying, the stranger vanished, and the boy turned back and did as the stranger had bidden him.

And thus he gained more than a hundredfold reward.

THE GOAT AND THE ANT.

A PEASANT had a she-goat which he was wonderfully fond of. One day he said to his son Carl, 'Take care of my goat, or you will get your head broken.' The boy did as he was bid, took the goat to pasture in meadow and forest, to the pond to drink, and then merrily drove the animal home. Arrived there, the peasant asked the goat, 'Now, goat, hast thou fared well to-day?' The goat answered, 'I have eaten some leaves, have had a drink of water, and have sat down Mee!' The peasant was so enraged on a hard stone. at this answer that he made good his threat. Now he sent his other son. But although he too did all that he possibly could for the goat, she still answered to the question of the peasant, 'Have eaten some leaves, had a drink of water, and sat down on the hard stone. Mee!' The peasant chopped this boy's head off also, and threw it into the cellar. Presently that of his sister followed, and then that of his mother, for neither could these content the goat, and so fell victims to the peasant's threat, 'Take good care of my goat, or else you will lose your head. I cannot help you.' At last the peasant himself drove the goat forth. He let her 'browse on the trees, browse in the meads, drink of the brooks,' and all possible liberties.

When he got home the goat answered as usual to the question of the peasant, 'Have eaten some leaves,' etc. Scarcely had he heard the words, than, full of rage, the peasant cried out, 'Lo, now you've made away with my three bairns and my brave wife, it's your turn next.' With these words he kindled a fire, placed on a pot with peas, and prepared to kill the goat. He thrust a knife in her neck, and flayed off the skin. smelt a peculiar smell, 'for the peas had got burnt' He hastened to the pot to save the peas; and the goat, taking the opportunity, ran off, partly flayed as it was, and with the knife in its neck, out of doors, and then into a fox's hole, from which the fox had just gone out, and stayed there quietly till the fox came home, and she rejoiced at the happy upshot. When the fox appeared, he scented something in his hole, and asked, as he stood before the entrance, 'What is in my hole?' With lamentable voice the goat answered, 'My name is Goat; I know nothing of the world; half-shorn, halfshaved, a knife in my throat; come in here, I've a secret to tell you.'

At these words the fox was frightened, and went sorrowfully away. Then he came upon a cow, who asked him what he wanted. The fox told her now what had gone wrong with him, whereupon the cow begged that she might go back with him. But she too



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turned in alarm from the hole. So they went on in trouble together, when an ant addressed them with the words, 'Why do ye weep thus, big and strong as both of ye are?' The terrible story was told to the ant, and the fox added the words, 'If any one goes to the hole it cries out, Come in here, I'll tell you a secret.' The ant then went with the two to the fox's hole, got on the goat's back and tickled her as much as she could. The goat saw no other means of getting rid of this plague than by getting out of the hole. This she did; 'up she got, and away she ran.'

THE WILD CAT OF THE FOREST.

ONCE there was a charcoal-burner who had but his wife and one child, that was only a few days old. It had not yet been baptized, and the charcoal-burner resolved to look out for a godfather. As he dwelt in the forest, he had to go to the next village, in order to beg for a godfather; so he put on his Sunday best, and went on his way. Arrived in the village, he went straight to the magistrate's house to ask him to be god father. But the latter excused himself rather roughly and said he had no cash to spend upon such a lot, and had all but kicked the charcoal-burner out.

He fared no better with the rest. The christening, however, was to take place next day, and so he was bound, by hook or by crook, to get a godfather. He went to the next village, about three leagues off, at the edge of a great forest. As he was on the road a heavy thunder-storm came on, so that he had to go deeper into the forest in order not to get wet to the skin, and spoil his Sunday clothes into the bargain. Meanwhile night had come on; the peasant, relying too much on his prudence, had made a mistake this time. Instead

of getting out of the forest by and by, he got more and more astray. Weary and faint, he was going to lie down under a tree to pass the night, when not far from him he saw a small light burning. He gathered his last strength together, glided up to the place where the light burned, and saw a large hut standing before him, at the door of which he knocked. 'Who's there?' cried a rough voice from within, while the purring of a cat was also heard. 'A poor man who has lost his way, and only begs for a night's lodging.' 'If it's nought more, that I can give you,' returned the voice. The door was opened, and a great strong man stepped forth, followed at his heels by a black cat, as big as a calf. The man led the charcoal-burner into the hut, and asked him what brought him so late into the deep forest. Goodman charcoal-burner told his story, how he was seeking a godfather for his little boy; how he had been refused everywhere; had tried to get to the next village, and had lost his way.

The man listened attentively to the story, then said, Now, if that is all you want, I can myself meet your wishes. Go to sleep to-night, and we will see what is to be done to-morrow.' He pointed out to the charcoal-burner a bed for the night, while he himself with the cat lay down on the ground. Early in the morning he got up, plucked a posy from his window-flowers, woke the charcoal-burner, harnessed the black cat, and away they went to the charcoal-burner's hut. Arrived there, they took the child into the village to be baptized.

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At the wish of the godfather it received the name 'Wood-Cat.' Home they went again, where the stranger gave up the child and the posy to the father, and turned forestwards with his black steed. The charcoal-burner now handed over the boy with the bunch to the mother, and at the same time pronounced his name.

But then the good man had to weather a storm. 'Devil take it,' quoth she, 'that's no name for a dog, let alone an honest Christian man. Some ill will come to the lad of it, and the iron monkey might have kept the bunch; for him it is worth while to have a Wood-Cat for child. I should have thrown the posy at his feet.' As she said this it fell, as if blown away out of her hand, and a mass of ducats rolled out of it. This threw the couple into no slight astonishment. In joy they gathered up the coin, and saw that it was no less than a thousand gulden. All strife was now at an end. all anger passed away; they praised the noble benefactor, and only considered what they were to do with the quantity of money. The husband wanted to buy the whole forest, and to carry on his work on a large scale; but the wife, who was rather vain and ambitious, wanted to have an out and out grand house. they agreed to buy a farm-house, and there quietly and happily to spend their days. They did so, and from that time onwards lived honoured and contented.

Meanwhile our little Wood-Cat had become a bigger, and at the same time a bad boy, as his mother had

foretold. So he got more blows than food; and he therefore resolved to give his parents the slip one misty night. Whither to go he knew not, but it was all one to him, so he ran straight into the forest, and on and on, until at last he himself had lost knowledge of its ins and outs.

Carelessly he lay down; and when at daybreak he awoke he saw not far off a hut. He went up and knocked firmly at the door, to see whether anybody was in. 'Who's there?' said a rough voice, while at the same time the purring of an old cat was heard. "Tis I, the Wood-Cat; open, I am hungry!" The door was opened by an old man, and a mighty cat was on the point of springing upon its prey, when master and cat at the same moment recognised their friend, with whom they had made the journey to the church and back more than twelve years ago. godfather received him kindly, and asked him how he had got on. When the boy had told him all he knew, the godfather began: 'My child, thou art now at an age when thou shouldst learn something; if then thou wouldst like the gardener's trade, thou canst bide with me. I am now old, and before I die I will appoint thee my heir and successor.' Wood-Cat willingly agreed, so as not to starve; he complied with the will of his godfather, and became a gardener.

In this place he remained three years, and learned, in addition to gardening, many other useful things. At last he got tired of gardening, and ran away through

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wind and rain from his godfather, as he had done before from his parents. This time also he was so imprudent as to slip away without having the means of living, and he was soon compelled to betake himself to his trade again. After wandering about for some time, he was aware of a splendid castle. He knocked at the gate, and asked whether they wanted a gardener; and in fact he was at once appointed court-gardener.

The king to whom the castle belonged had a very beautiful daughter. Often did she come into the garden, and took a great liking to the young gardener. On this account the court officials envied him, but as in other respects they could very well endure him, they only thought of means of getting him away from the place. So they told him the king had seen him kissing the princess, and therefore had given orders that the gardener should be put to death. At this he was frightened, and sought to flee. He spoke of it all in confidence to the princess, and in the garden they swore to be true to one another for a year and a day. gardener fled out of the castle, but, weary of these perpetual wanderings, he hired himself out in the next village as shepherd's boy, and not long after was raised to be shepherd. And indeed when he drove his flock afield, it was a joy to behold them. In rank and file they marched like a regiment of soldiers; and they were under such discipline that they obeyed each word of command. And when at evening they were driven home, again they marched in good order before our

friend Wood-Cat, while he played a merry tune upon the flute. 'Twas a joy to see them! But all this the shepherd did for the king's daughter's sake, under whose windows the sheep were driven by. But he never offered himself to be recognised, only wrapped himself more deeply in his cloak, when he passed by in front of the king's palace, that he might not be discovered by the courtiers.

In this manner a year had passed without anything happening. On the last day Wood-Cat drove his flock unusually far into the wood, when suddenly a fearfully huge giant came to meet him, who roared out, 'What hast thou, dwarf, to do there in my garden? Knowest thou not that every one who comes into my grounds is devoured by me?' 'Upon my soul, I did not know it!' said the shepherd, frightened to death, and begged the giant to spare his young life. But the giant yielded not, but continued to roar. Then said the shepherd, 'Now, if you mean to destroy me out and out, I only ask you for one favour. Let me play my favourite song once more, and then I will gladly die.' Said the giant, 'For my part, I was always fond of listening to music.' Then began the shepherd to play so charmingly, so sweetly, so sadly, that the giant began to sleep. This was just what the shepherd wanted. He drew his knife from its sheath, and before he could say 'Yes' or 'No,' the giant's head lay on the earth, and was changed into a small gold apple, while the rest of his body was changed into a large green hill. Wood-Cat was going

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to drive his flock home, when he suddenly heard a rushing noise, and saw robbers come out of the interior of the wood, and encamp on the other side of the hill. They kindled a fire in order to cook some flesh, and conversed with one another in violent tones. Cat glided softly up to them, and heard that they were taking counsel how they should next night, when the wedding of the princess with a foreign prince was to be celebrated, plunder the castle and murder all the inmates. Having agreed upon their plan, they ate and drank, and then departed. But when they were gone. Wood-Cat came up, cut the apple into two parts, and wrote upon them what he had heard from the robbers: also that he was the gardener, and the oath which the king's daughter had sworn to him. Then he drove his tiocks home. The princess appeared as usual at the window, but this time alone; and the shepherd used this favourable opportunity to cast the two halves of the apple into her bosom. And now the king's daughter recognised him, greatly rejoiced, and resolved to keep the matter secret for a time.

But when the morning came, she said to the king, Father, put off my wedding; this is an unlucky day; I have had so horrible a dream, warning me against my wedding. I dreamt that we sat in mirth and pleasure at the wedding together, when suddenly we heard a cry of fire, and the whole house was in flames; then robbers rushed into the hall, and murdered all the guests, and, as they approached us, I woke up, all

covered with perspiration, and trembling in hands and feet.'

The king saw in this as it were a sign from heaven sent him. He put off the wedding, had guards of soldiers mounted within the castle, the windows lighted as if for a festivity, and all prepared, as if the wedding were being held. Towards midnight the robbers actually came up, and were on the point of setting fire to the castle, and rushing into the hall to plunder, when the guards broke from their hiding-places, and took them all prisoners.

The princess now confessed the truth to her father, and the king willingly consented to the marriage, for he owed his life to the shepherd.

THE STOLEN PRINCESS.

ONCE there lived a mighty king, who had a queer both rich and beautiful. She bore him a girl. But when the day of the christening came, the king knew not whom to have as godmother. Then there appeared on the evening before, a white woman, who offered herself for the duty, and the parents gladly accepted the offer, for they thought the child would be richly furnished with gifts of mind by the witch. Nor were they deceived in their hopes, for the woman loaded the child extravagantly with every conceivable gift. But at the same time she forbade the parents to allow the child to go out of the room before its twelfth year, otherwise she would be unhappy.

Already the maiden was eleven years old, when one tine summer's day she begged her father to permit her to go with him to the chase. He could not resist her tingent entreaty, and at last agreed. But scarce had she left the room, when a man appeared outside, on a time winged horse, who forthwith seized the maiden, and tose on horseback into the air. The king cried to helps but in vain, for the horse was already so high

that he could scarcely see it. He now went to his queen and told her what had happened, and both were greatly distressed. One evening the white woman came, having heard of the misfortune of the princess, to console the king for the loss of his daughter. Help indeed she could not, for over the devil by whom her daughter had been carried away she had no power; but she gave the grieving parents the comfort that their daughter might yet be saved, if a youth under twenty years of age would dare to go into hell and fetch the three waters of life, beauty, and love. In this way, beside their own daughter, two other princesses would be redeemed.

The king now caused it to be proclaimed in the land that he who should deliver his daughter from the hands of the devil should have her for his bride.

For a long time no one came forward. At last a peasant youth came forward and desired to try his luck. The king gave him plenty of money, that he might not suffer any distress, and the youth went briskly forward. Having wandered for a considerable time, he came to an old woman, whose face was hardly visible through her wrinkles. To his question whether this was the right way to hell, she screamed out, 'What business have you there? Better drop your plans; the devil is a man-eater, and will certainly gobble you up if he catches sight of you.' But the young peasant was not to be dissuaded. Then the old woman gave him a rod, saying, 'If with the right hand you switch it about

the wild beasts that stand at the entrance to hell can do nothing to you.' The peasant thanked her and went on. Then he met a cock, who asked whither he was bound. He replied, 'I am for hell, to deliver the lost princess.' The cock tried to dissuade him, but, as his efforts were in vain, he invited him into his dwelling to take some refreshment. When they came into the little cave, the cock gave him three feathers, with the words, 'Put them in your hat, and you will be safe from the beasts in hell.' The peasant thanked him and went briskly forward, strengthened by the refreshments. After some time he came to an old woman. 'Is this the way to hell?' he asked, and she said 'Yes,' and gave him a great sword, with the words, 'Thou wilt be able to make good use of it.' She added, 'When thou comest to the entrance of hell, two serpents will ask thee who thou art, and then thou must give no answer, but strike each of the serpents upon the head with thy If they should still stop thy way, then put one of the three feathers which the cock gave thee on the rod, and touch with it the tongues of the two serpents, whereupon they will hasten away hissing.' The peasant thanked her, and hastened to reach hell before the break of day.

When he arrived there, he closely followed the old woman's counsel. All happened as she had said. He came into a long, dimly-lighted passage, filled with the most horrible monsters, dragons, and serpents. These he could only keep off by switching about with the rod.

The passage led into a great garden, in the midst of which stood a castle, the walls of which were lavishly decorated with gold and silver. The peasant knew not whether to remain there or go into the castle. At last he resolved to go in. Already he had passed through everal richly-furnished rooms, when at last he came to one in which he heard women's voices. He went in, and saw three princesses, who were greatly astonished at his appearance. He told them why he had come. At this they were greatly rejoiced, but they feared he would not gain his object; 'for the devil,' said they, 'goes out to carry off maidens, and has held us captive a long time, and the man-eater will not spare thee.' Then they proposed that each should hide him for a night under the mattress of her bed, as by day the devil went about his ordinary business. No sooner had they made their arrangements than the devil, in the form of the dragon, came in and cried out, 'I smell human flesh; if you tell me not where it is, I will eat all three of you up.' 'Oh,' said one, 'the door of the pantry is open, and in it there is fresh killed game, which smells.' The devil suffered himself to be pacified with this, lay down on his bed, and slept all night. The next morning, when the devil had gone, the peasant crept out of his hiding-place, and the princesses showed him all there was to see in the castle. In the evening the second princess hid him ader her bed. When the dragon came home, he cried in a rage, 'I smell human flesh.' 'Oh, what do you think?' they said, 'within yonder is a fresh-slaughtered calf that spreads this smell.' And so he was pacified again. The third evening the third princess offered him a hiding-place, and as the returning devil again smelt human flesh, she replied, 'Tis only the soup, which is burned, and hence comes the smell.' Once more the devil allowed himself to be pacified, lay down in bed, and the next morning went about his usual business.

Now because the peasant had passed a night with each of the three princesses, they were delivered and fled away together. But the peasant took with him the three waters of life, of beauty, and of love, of which each of the princesses had to take care of one. They placed themselves on the chariot of the devil, and harnessed to it his winged horse. At the gate two serpents asked who they were, but they gave no answer. After proceeding some time at a swift pace, they came into a forest, in which they were lost. Already it was night, and no way out could be discovered. At last they observed a great building, which the princesses recognised as the favourite resort of the devil, and were therefore anxious for their life. The peasant, however, hid them in a cave hard by, and went alone into the house, in the hope of being able to slay the dragon with his sword. At the gate he observed a serpent, who officiated as porter. 'Is the devil at home?' he asked. It nodded, but would not let him pass. Then he drew his sword and cut off the

serpent's head from its body. Scarcely was this done, when the devil himself appeared before the door, and a hard battle now began between the devil and the peasant. The latter, however, got the upper hand, and quickly he ran to the princesses, to bring them the glad news, at which they were greatly rejoiced. They now wandered further on, and soon reached the hut of the old woman from whom the peasant had obtained the sword. The old woman begged the peasant to give her a drop of the water of life; and this he did. With these drops she moistened her face, and appeared to the peasant as a young girl. At the same time it began to thunder violently and to lighten, and in place of the hut there was seen a noble castle. The maiden returned thanks for her deliverance, and entertained him with his three companions in the handsomest manner. next day they continued their journey, and reached by evening the dwelling of the cock. He was greatly rejoiced at the deliverance of the three princesses, and begged the peasant that he would now help forward his own deliverance, which might be effected if he would again fix the three feathers, which he had formerly received from him, in their old places. This was done, and scarcely was the cock furnished with the feathers than there was a violent report. Instead of his poor dwelling there stood a castle, and the bewitched cock appeared as a prince. He too returned thanks for his deliverance; and the peasant then wandered further on with the three princesses, and soon reached the hut of the cl.1 woman who had given him the rods. Her too he released by touching the four corners of her dwelling. Immediately arose a noble castle, and the old woman appeared as a princess.

Next day they reached the king's palace. His joy cannot be described. Preparations were immediately made for the wedding, and the white woman was among the guests. The two other princesses released by the peasant likewise returned home to their parents.



THE WONDERFUL DELIVERANCE.

MANY years ago there lived a king who ruled over a great kingdom. Once he got ready for a hunting expedition; but as, in order to come to the hunting district, he had to cross the sea, and the hunting, moreover, was very dangerous, he said on departing to his queen, 'As I may perish on this hunting, and at all events it may last a long time, we must agree on a sign by which to recognise one another. Put this ring on your finger; it is exactly like that which I wear; and by this we shall recognise each other. But if I do not come back within ten years, you may be certain that I am no more, and at the end of this term choose for yourself another consort.'

After several days' prosperous voyage, he landed with twenty men, good and true, and twenty horses, upon his hunting-ground. They made excursions hither and thither, and had a successful hunt; but on one of the expeditions which they pursued they got lost. They came into a forest where the trees were magnetic, so that they could not get out. But in the forest no savages even dwelt, and so the king and his people

suffered great distress, and were forced to kill and eat the broses that they might not starve. Only the king's horse was suffered to live. Nineteen men were sacrificed to necessity, and only the king and one man remained. The two held counsel as to how they could get out of the forest. The surviving follower of the king knew that in this wood there was a monstrous bird with twelve heads. Relying on this fact, he conceived a singular plan. He proposed that they should kill the one remaining horse, and that the king should be sewed up in its skin. He was to retain no arms but his sword and his hunting-knife; and after he had been thus sewn up, the man was to slay himself.

At first the king would not agree to this plan, but after much talk for and against he adopted it, and all was done as the man wished. On the top of a mountain in the forest the king was clothed in the horse's skin, and then the soldier slew himself.

For several hours the king was in a very uncomfortable state, till at last the bird came, lifted him up like a feather, and flew away with him, not knowing the noble burden he bore. For several hours he flew with him through the air, until in another forest, on the top of a vast and ancient oak, he set him down, placing the sewed-up king in the nest where his young were, they also twelve-headed. Here he left the king with his young, and himself flew away. The king had hardly

observed that the old bird had flown, when he drew his knife, cut through the horse's skin, crept out, and killed all the young. Swiftly he came down the tree, and hid himself hard by. He had need to do so, for the oldbird came back immediately. When he saw that his young ones were killed, he uttered a fearful cry; the lowing of an ox was nothing to it. He lashed the air with his wings, so that you could hear the sound for miles off. The cry attracted a lion to the spot. sooner did the bird observe him than he threw himself upon him in a rage, thinking this was the destroyer of his young ones. The lion would soon have been overcome had not the king hastened to his help; yet the two together had great difficulty with the bird, for scarce had he cut off one of his heads than it grew again. Only after great exertions did they succeed in becoming masters of the bird. The king thought he should now have to do with the lion; but what was his astonishment when the lion laid himself down at his feet, and licked his hands.

They wandered many days together, and the lion provided the king with game, until at last they came to a river, whose waters were boiling hot. Here the king wished to make a raft, so that they might float down the river. He built himself first a small hut for protection against the rain, then took his sword, felled trees, and made a raft, caulking the joints with rosin. While he was carrying on these labours the lion hunted in the forest, and supplied the king so

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richly with food, that something was left over for the journey.

The raft was made, and the king quite ready for his journey; only the lion was still absent. Then the king thought of a plan by which he might get rid of the beast, for he still did not quite trust him. He suddenly got upon the raft and pushed off from the shore. at that moment the lion came back from his hunting with some game in his mouth; and seeing the king on the raft, he hesitated for a moment, but the next he gave an immense bound, and leaped towards the raft. But only his forefeet touched it, his hinder part fell into the hot water, so that he was well burnt. The consequence was that the hairs fell off, and so lions to the present day are very short-haired behind. After some efforts he succeeded in getting on the raft; and then he gave the king a look that went to the marrow of his bones. Yet the lion was generous, and did the king no And now they floated onwards; and when they had no food they stopped, and the lion went hunting. Many days they had journeyed on, but always through wild regions, when at last, after some months, they came to an inn. They went in. There was no one in the room but the host, who was struck by the strange clothing of the king, for he had only the skin of an annual on; and he also marvelled at his companion. The king asked the name of the land, and it appeared that he was not far distant from his castle. term had almost expired. On the wall of the public

room there hung a sword, which moved of itself, and which the king desired to have at any price. But having no money to buy it with, when the host had gone out for a moment, he took it from the wall, hanging up his own in its place. He gave it a swing, and went out with the lion. They got on the raft, and were going forward again, but found they could not, because the stream was full of weeds and creeping plants. The king then hung the sword at the head of the raft, and thus they made way, for the sword moved hither and thither, cutting up the creeping plants. So for several days they went on, until, on the last day of the term, they came to the royal castle.

During these events the queen had lived in a state of excitement. The ship in which the king and his people had sailed to the hunting-ground had returned. news of the king's disappearance had become known. and the princes and great men of the kingdom urged the queen to choose another consort, but she always said, 'If he does not come back within ten years, I will choose another, but not before.' The princes threatened her, for they would not be ruled by a woman; and so at last she agreed to marry. The betrothal was to take place on the last day of the ten years. The bridegroom had just arrived with the princes, and they were about to go to church, when the wedding was prevented by the appearance of the king. The intended bridegroom and the princes resisted, and would have slain the king, but he drew his sword, which made such fearful havoc

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among them, that of all the princes not one remained alive.

The king lived long with his queen, and was very happy; the lion remained always his faithful companion, and when the king died he refused his food, and died on the grave of his master,

THE OUTCAST SON.

ONCE there lived a pair of married people, who had one son. He was still young when his mother died. Not long after the father married again. But the young woman looked upon her step-son with unquenchable hatred because he was the image of his deceased She persecuted him in every conceivable way, and went so far in her hatred as even to plot against his life. But God brought all her counsels to naught. She then begged her husband to turn his son out of doors, saying that otherwise she could not live with him. After a long resistance the father at last agreed. He led his son away into a remote forest, and when they were in the midst of a wild thicket, the father said to the son, 'Wait here a moment, we have missed our way, and I will see if I cannot find it again.' He went away and the boy waited. Hour after hour passed by, till the poor boy saw that he was betrayed. As night came on he clambered up a high tree. Then he became aware of a great fire. Quickly he came down, went to the spot, and found a gigantic old man sitting by the fire. At first he was terrified, but hunger gave

him courage; so he went up to the giant with a good heart, and begged that he might stop with him. The old giant asked in astonishment how he had come into this wilderness. The boy told all, and the old man kept him with him, and taught him to hurt.

One morning, as he was about to go hunting, the old man said to him that he might shoot any wild beast, but no raven must be harmed. He had already slain animals of every kind, when he took the fancy into his head just for once to shoot a raven. One evening he did so; and as he ran to pick it up, he saw three drops of blood in the snow and a black feather. He looked at it, and said to himself, 'I would fain have a wife whose body should be white as snow, her cheeks as red as blood, her hair as black as a raven's feather.' Returning home he repented of the shot, and confessed his disobedience to his foster father. At first the old man was angry; but as the boy had so openly confessed his fault, he became good-tempered again, and the boy told him of the words which he had spoken yonder by the dead Smiling at this, the old man said, 'Such a wife thou mayest have, if thou dost better follow my counsel. Go about the twelfth hour to yonder pool in the wood There about that time three maidens, bearing crowns on their heads, will bathe. So soon as they go into the water, they will lay down their crowns. Then do thou slip up, and steal the crown of the first, and run home without looking back.' The son did as the old man advised; but as he was about to run away with the

crown, he was pursued by the owner, who called after him to stop and look round. Forgetful of his father's words, he stopped and looked round, when the maiden gave him a heavy blow, and snatched the crown from He went home in great trouble. The next day the same thing happened. But the third day he took the crown of the third maiden, and ran home with it without looking round. The maiden followed him, and he chose her for his wife. For some time they lived peaceably and pleasantly together. But one day they were invited to a wedding. There was dancing, and the young woman danced the best of all, and awakened the wonder of all that were present. Observing this, she begged her husband to give her the crown just for the day. He went and fetched it; but scarce had she the crown upon her head than she flew away swift as an arrow. At this mischance her husband was very sad. Departing, he took a pilgrim's staff, and went forth to seek his beloved wife.

After he had wandered for a considerable time, he found himself in the midst of a dark forest. Here he saw three devils, who were quarrelling violently. He asked the devils what their difference was, and they told him their father was dead, and had left them nothing but a club, by means of which any of them might be turned into a stone pillar; secondly, a cap, which made him who put it on invisible; and thirdly, a cloak, which had the property that any one might be swiftly carried in it whithersoever he wished. About

these articles they could not agree, because each wished to have all three. The wanderer proposed to act as faire between them. All three were to go to the mountain opposite, and at a given sign were to run towards him, and the first that came up should have all three articles. But meanwhile the club, the cap, and the cloak must remain with him. The devils agreed to the proposal, and went. But while they were waiting for the appointed signal, he changed all three into stone pillars. Then the young man went further with his magical booty. As night came on, he wrapped himself in his cloak, lay down on the earth, and thought if only he might awake to-morrow before the house-door of his beloved wife. And actually next merning he woke before a strange house. The door opened, and a beautiful woman came out, whom he immediately recognised as his wife.

THE TWO SISTERS.

In a village there lived a woman, who was little liked by the neighbours because of her pride and hardheartedness. She had two daughters, of whom the elder was exactly like her mother, while the younger, by her simplicity, kindness, and readiness to do a good turn to another, enjoyed the affection of the whole village. But the love of her mother and sister was denied to To get rid of her the mother sent her out to service. Yet in spite of the sufferings she had endured at home, she did not find it easy to part from her kindred; but when she saw that the decision of her harsh mother was not to be altered through her entreaties, and that she had to endure the scoffs of her haughty sister besides, she took her bundle and went forth sobbing and weeping.

The wanderer passed near an oven, which had broken asunder and fallen to pieces. Accustomed to repair fractures of this kind at home, she fetched some clay from a pit, and stopped the holes in the oven, and only travelled on when the oven was repaired. Then she came to a spring, the mouth of which was quite

choked up. She set to work immediately, cleared out the spring, so that again an abundant flow of water Passing on she came to a pear-tree. about whose roots the earth had dried and cracked. so that the leaves had withered and fallen off. covered the roots with earth, and fetching water from the brook hard by, watered the roots. She did the same with an apple-tree in the neighbourhood. At last in the course of her wandering she came to a hut in The girl asked whether she which an old wife sat. could take service there. The old wife, after some hesitation, said, Yes, but only on condition that she never touched the pots which stood in her room; and further, that she must keep the light dust in an old chest, and that which lay under the light dust, and was coarser, in a new chest. The poor girl took the service, but got little to eat, and shared that little with a dog and a cat, which the old woman had put in her charge to tend and take care of. Soon by watchfulness and toil she had won the trust, and by careful and loving tendance the attachment of the two animals, so that the old wife resolved to hand over to her for a time the charge of the house, and to undertake a little journey.

The first night the maiden heard a clatter and an outcry at the door, which continued so that she hesitated whether to open the door or not. In her anxiety she asked her two animals, and they showed by their gestures they were against opening the door. After one o'clock suddenly the noise ceased, and all was

quiet again. Every night for a year the noise was repeated, and as the old wife came not back, the girl resolved to go back home to her mother; but the dog and the cat tried to prevent her carrying out this design, and would not go with her. So she determined to stay in the hut.

One day the old wife came back, and was delighted at the order which the maiden had kept in the house, and asked her whether she would keep her situation or would return to her mother. She chose the latter, and packed up her bundle. Then the old wife led her into the room where the pots stood, and said, 'I can give thee nothing but what thou hast gathered together; see, here are the two chests, choose either the old or the new.' She took the old chest, thinking it was all one whether she took the one or the other, as there was nothing but dust and rubbish in either. While the old wife went out, her curiosity led her to open the pots, and out flew poor souls, who joyously thanked themaiden. Quickly she closed again all the pots, took the little dog and cat, and went forth. The old wife noticed after she was gone that the pots had been meddled with, and hastened after the girl. But as she came close to her, there opened suddenly between her and the girl an impassable gulf. By a roundabout way the old wife hastened after her, and again all but overtook her; but this time an impenetrable thicket prevented her, and so she went back wearied out, and ceased from further pursuit.

The maiden on her way back came to the spring and said, 'Little spring, I repaired thee; thou couldst give me water!' Then there bubbled forth from the spring pure wine, and she drank full draughts, and then filled her bottle and hung it on the dog's neck. Refreshed, she went on, and came to the apple-tree, which was covered with beautiful fruit, and she said, 'Little tree, I tended thee; give me apples!' Then there sprung up a wind, and the finest fruits fell down; some she ate, and the others she put in the chest and went on. After a short time she came to the oven, which was uninjured, in perfect order, and in which baking seemed to be going on. She wished for roast meat, cakes, and the like, and what she wished soon lay before her gladdened eyes; and when she and the little dog and cat were satisfied, she took some more of the provisions with her, and went straight to her father's house.

When she got there and told all that had befallen her, and of the reward she had obtained for her faithful service, her mother and sister laughed, and said she must show them the dust. Then she opened the chest, and to the astonishment of all there was nothing but gold and silver inside. Pears, apples, cakes, all were gold. But soon the riddle was explained: the dog was a banished prince, and the cat his enchanted sister. The prince married the maiden, and the sister had long had a betrothed husband at home; and now, amidst the rejoicings of the people, they went to

the chief city of the kingdom to their happy parents.

Full of envy at the good fortune of this daughter, the mother now sent her favourite also into the world, that she might in like manner look for treasures and She went the same way that her sister had before taken. But when she came to the oven it had fallen to pieces. She took no trouble to plaster it up with clay, as her sister had done, but went on; and in like manner she neglected the pear-tree and the appletree and the spring. At last she came to the old wife, who took her into her service, and bade her do as her sister had done, giving her likewise a dog and a cat. But these poor creatures, in spite of their fawning and begging, got nothing to eat from the hard-hearted girl. Nor did she clean the room so neatly, and the dust she sometimes threw away, sometimes put in the chest, so that the old wife was not satisfied with the girl, and could not therefore give her the charge of the hut. One day the old wife said to the girl, leading her to the chest, 'Here, take what thou hast collected, either the old or the new chest.' The maiden took the new chest, and went forth with the cat and the dog. came to the spring, she said, 'Spring, give me wine!' But from the spring there came nothing but muddy water; she filled some bottles with it, thinking it would turn to fine wine when she got home to her mother. Then she went on and came to the apple-tree; and there fell down stony apples, and from the pear-tree

just such pears, yet she still cherished the hope that all would turn to gold. Now she came to the oven, where her mother came to meet her; there was a fine fire, and already she revelled in the expected enjoyment of the dainties, and demanded of the oven roast meat and pastry. Full of curiosity she opened the chest, but it swarmed with hobgoblins and mountain sprites; the dog and the cat were also transformed into devils, and helped their brothers to throw the hard-hearted mother and her image, the hard-hearted, vain, and lazy drughter, into the oven.

So different was the fate of the two sisters, who, indeed, by the same way, but in quite a different manner, sought their fortunes.

MORIANDLE & SUGARKANDLE.

ONCE there was a peasant and his wife who had two children, a boy named Sugarkandle and a girl named Moriandle. The mother and father were very fond of their children, and gave them all that was necessary to their welfare. Peace and union were never destroyed in this house, and far and wide the life of this family was upheld as an example of domestic peace. But this was not to last. The mother died, and with her death grief and trouble came into the house.

The peasant was a dealer in pigs, and had therefore often to make long journeys in order to look after his business. The children, still too young to be left to themselves, needed oversight. He would not intrust them to quite strange people, so he took another wife. With hypocritical cunning she fulfilled the slightest wishes of the children in her husband's presence, but when he was gone she tormented them in all possible ways. They had to do the hardest work, and got in return more blows for their backs than bread for their stomachs.

This may have lasted for a year. If the children

complianced to their father he did not believe them, because his wife treated them so differently in his presence. But the step-mother watched with anxiety superistable and Meriandle growing up, for when they came to understand things they would easily suspect the reasons of the harred she felt to them. For the country belonged to the children, because it had been their mother's property; moreover, as the children of his first mannage, they inherited their father's substance.

Meaname the step-mother had a little boy born to her, who was called because of the fiery colour of his him Gliw-worm. It happened one day that a letter came containing a copy of a will, by which the two elder children were made sole heirs of a very rich aunt. And now the step-mother was beside herself with rage. "The pupples, she exclaimed, 'are to have everything, while my poor Glow-worm will have to beg his bread some day; but as sure as I live I must find a way to put a step to this. My Glow-worm shall have all though it should cost my life.' She turned the matter over and over in her mind, but could think of no way of gaining her end but by murder. So she tried another plan, and treated the children more indulgently than ever, even in the absence of her husband. Sugarkandle, who was a clever lad, was struck by this behaviour, and resolved betimes to be on his guard.

The father had to be away for a month, and such an absence exactly suited the plans of the step-mother.

She only waited the favourable moment to put them both out of the way. One day Sugarkandle had a fore-boding. He felt so timid in the house, that he begged his step-mother to allow him to pay a visit to his grand-mother, who lived a few miles off.

Gladly she gave him permission, because she knew he must pass over the Toper's Ditch, as it was called. This was a deep ravine which took its name from the unlucky drunkards who had gone by the narrow path above, and had fallen in. Sugarkandle's grandmother kept an inn; and as she used to treat him to a glass or two of mead when he came to see her, the wicked step mother thought he might very easily fall into the ravine. But she was out of her reckoning. Sugarkandle went, told his grandmother of the ill-treatment he received, and also of his suspicions, and begged her to keep him till his father came back. The grandmother at once saw what the object of the step-mother was, and she resolved to put her to the test and see what she would do It so happened that the son of a gardener had fallen off a roof and been killed. The grandmother had him laid in the ditch that it might appear as if Sugarkandle had fallen in. Meanwhile she hid him in her house.

Poor forsaken Moriandle was very low-spirited, and presently fell ill. The step-mother appeared much troubled at this, and ran from one old wife to another. At last she came home in high spirits, and said to Moriandle, 'Dear heart, you will soon be better, Dame

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Rosskopanonerimirlsepp has told me of a cure that will certainly make you well again. You must get into the even, and gnaw damsons and pears, and you may eat as much as you will. Moriandle was very pleased with this remedy, for how often had she had to work in the great oven, yet dared eat nothing. This time she went in willingly, although it was excessively hot, and she grawed damsons and pears. The perspiration ran down her body, and at last she fell down in weakness. No one was at hand, and so she lay there senseless. The step-mother took her out of the oven, and There is a coffin. Then she ran up and down crying 'Murder!' till there was a crowd gathered together; then she told them with tears that her dear good child Moriandle was dead. 'Come and look at her; she is quite disfigured.' 'That I believe,' they all said, 'she died without the last sacrament.' And nobody would go and look at her for fear of being cried down. The viewer, a very superstitious man, would not venture into the room because he was met by a smell, which the step-mother had purposely caused to be diffused there. 'I believe she is dead,' said he; 'give me my fee.' All the other ceremonies the step-mother had performed without attracting attention, which is soon awakened amongst the villagers.

By and by the father came home, and his grief was boundless when he learned of the death of his children, for the body of Sugarkandle, as it was supposed, was found in the Toper's Ditch. But the boy in his hiding-place knew that he was believed to be dead, and his grandmother thought it well that he should not be seen at present. At the same time she made inquiry after Moriandle, who had so suddenly disappeared. Sugarkandle heard of the death of his sister, and went some days afterward to the farm and prayed there. 'Moriandle,' he cried, 'Moriandle, why didst thou die?' And the well-known voice of Moriandle replied, 'Sugarkandle!' So weird did this sound, that he shuddered and took to flight.

Breathless he ran to his grandmother and told her of the strange occurrence. And she said, 'Go once more to-morrow to the farm and call. If the voice answers thee, remain boldly on the spot and ask, "What wouldst thou, dear sisterling?"' So the next day Sugar-kandle went, furnished by his grandmother with crosses and relics and pictures, and having bathed in holy water, so that the evil one might have no power over him. When he got to the farm, he cried, 'Moriandle!' And in strange tones sounded back, 'Sugarkandle!' Crossing himself, he asked, 'What wouldst thou, dear sisterling?'

And the voice said, 'Dear brotherling, our step-mother has shut me in the oven and slain me. Go to father, he needs to be comforted! Tell him that his wife coveted our money, and therefore I have lost my young life. Oh, woe, woe!'

The cry of woe died away, and the voice was silenced. Sugarkandle ran back and told all to his grandmother.

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Then he went to his father, who had thought him to be dead. Great was the sorrow of the step-mother, whose wicked designs were now to be exposed. But the father was overjoyed to find that at least he had one child back again. Sugarkandle now told him everything, including that which had happened at the farm.

Then the peasant was fearfully wroth, and without grace or pity he dragged the step-mother before the judge. She was condemned to death. Having sinned so sorely against the children, the sentence was that she should be stoned to death by the young men of the village.

THE THREE EGGS.

ONCE there lived two sisters, each of whom had a little girl. Soon one of them died, and the other had to adopt the child of her deceased sister. But she herself was poor, and scarcely had bread and raiment for herself and her own daughter. And so the other poor girl had to earn her living, such as it was, by doing nearly all the work of the house.

One day her foster mother gave her a jug to fetch water with from a neighbouring spring. But the girl broke the pitcher to pieces; and the step-mother was so wroth at this that she told her to keep out of sight until she should bring a similar pitcher.

The girl prayed and wept, but she had to go. After travelling some miles she came to a tree, under which sat a woman without a head. The girl was astonished, and her astonishment was increased when the woman asked whether there was anything strange that she noticed in her appearance? 'No,' said the girl, and went on.

Soon she came to another great tree, under which also a headless woman sat; and she, too, put the same

question to the girl. 'No,' said she, and went quickly on, for she was hungry and thirsty.

Then she came to a third tree, under which a woman sat who had a head. The girl asked her for bread; and the old woman said, 'Go into the hut that stands at the end of the field, and there eat the rice which thou wilt find in a pot; but if a black cat comes to thee, give her also of the rice.'

The girl went into the hut, found and ate the rice, and the cat also had a share. Then the old wife came into the hut, and led her into a room in which eggs lay on a table, and gave her permission to take three eggs, but only such as did not speak. Then she bade the maiden break an egg under each tree where she had seen a woman sitting. The girl took the three smallest eggs, because they were the only ones that did not speak, and went her way.

Under the first tree she broke an egg, and there stood before her a pitcher, which looked like the broken one. From the second egg came a chariot and horses, and from the third a casket with gold. She now went to her foster mother, taking the pitcher, and afterwards bought a country-house for herself, and lived in peace.

The foster mother was vexed at this, and sent her own daughter to the old wife. When the first woman under the tree asked the girl whether she saw anything unusual, she answered, 'Yes, a woman without a head.' At the next tree she made the same answer. From the last woman she also obtained permission to eat the rice,

and was also told to give the black cat something. But she gave the cat nothing, and ate by herself. Then she was told she might take three eggs which did not speak. And she took the biggest and went away.

Then she wanted to know what was contained in the eggs. So she broke open an egg, and found it empty. Then she threw the second to the ground, so that it broke of itself; but, lo! there came forth a great serpent. In horror the maiden was about to take to flight, when she fell to the ground, and the third egg broke. And there came out of it a headless woman, who seated herself on the serpent, which was winged, and it flew away. The girl had now nothing but the broken eggs. Such was the punishment of her disobedience and curiosity.

THE WONDROUS TREE.

ONCE there was a peasant, and he had three sons, one of whom was very stupid, and therefore was called stupid Hansl by everybody. All that he undertook turned out amiss, everything he laid hold of fell to the ground. His father thought he could make him clever by means of flogging, and flogged him after every stupid trick; but it was all of no use. One day there grew up on the place all at once a strange tree, without anybody's having sown a seed. It grew so quickly that after a few days it reached the height of a tower, and in a few weeks its top was lost in the clouds. The villagers were curious to know where one would get to if one were to climb up the tree, but no one would undertake it.

The news of the tree spread far and wide, till it came to the ears of the king's daughter, who asked for a fruit from it. A good reward was promised to anybody who would undertake the journey. Many came forward, but none succeeded, for each fell down again after the second or third day. Each took several pairs of wooden shoes with him, of which he was to throw one down

from time to time as a sign that he was all right. Some were never seen again, and threw no shoes down, so that something must have happened to them. Every one lost heart at this. The two brothers of Hansl undertook the venture among others, but they fared like all the rest. Now Hansl came forward and furnished himself with twelve pairs of wooden shoes, victuals, and a leaden hatchet, and so went on his tree-journey. All laughed at him, but that did not trouble him much. They waited for a day, and thought Hansl would come down. But they were no little astonished when they merely saw his shoe fall down, and the shoes were all in holes. So it happened on the following days, and as the shoes kept falling down in greater force than ever, they came to the conclusion that Hansl was getting higher and higher.

And how was Hansl really getting on? After having clambered some days, one evening he found no suitable place to rest in, but as he was looking about, he discovered in the tree a hollow, in which a light was glimmering. He went in, and observed a hideous old woman, who, however, received him kindly, got a good supper ready for him, and pointed out a sleeping-place. As Hansl asked her how far it was to the top, she answered, 'Ah! my dear boy, thou hast yet far to go. I am only Monday. Thou must come to Tuesday, Wednesday, and so on to Saturday; and when thou'rt once there, thou 'It see what comes to pass.'

The next day Hansl resumed his journey, and after

he had dismbered on for a few days more he came to a second height, in which a witch dwelt, much more hideres than Manday, called Erida. Hansl was afraid of her at first; but when she promised to him that he should have a good supper, his fear passed away. The next day, when he was about to resume his journey, the winth warned him not to turn in to Wednesday's, for he was a hideous man, she said, who could see no human desh. Hansl followed this counsel, and safely passed by Wednesday. The next hollows were dwelt in by Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, all old wives, each more hideous than the last. Each had a humped form, a bald head, and a great red nise.

When Hansl had passed Saturday, he had not a shoe left; his hatchet, with which he always kept himself steady, was already blunted, and he had no more pleasure in clambering. Go back he would not, for he was already very high, so there was nothing for it but to go on with his journey. But soon he came to a stone wall, into which the stem of the tree had grown. He noticed a little door. This he opened, and passed into a great meadow. Here he fell down stupefied, and as he recovered, he saw a city lying before him, all of gold, and over which a strong light was playing, so that Hansl's eyes could not endure it. Beside him lay his hatchet, but with a golden instead of a wooden handle. And on the top of the tree up which he had climbed he observed real golden fruits. Golden creatures

leaped in the pasture around. In a word, all was of gold.

Hansl believed he was in heaven, and he stopped there. Others say he came down again to earth, and told the whole story of what he had seen and heard up yonder.

THE SEVEN ROES.

ONCE there was a count, who possessed many forests, and had a numerous retinue. A godly man was he, and many a battle had he fought, and many a victory gained. In time of peace it was his greatest pleasure to hunt the game; and on these occasions he often got to a great distance from his train. One day being out hunting, he saw in the distance a white roe run swift as lightning across a meadow. In haste he spurred after it, and pursued it deep into the wood. None of his train had followed him, for he was too quick for them all, and soon he had vanished from their eyes. No one was anxious about this, because he had often been alone. and had frequently returned from the hunt only on the second day; but this time he himself was in fear. saw that he had lost his way far in the forest, and notwithstanding he sounded his horn, which could be heard a long way off, no one came. Nevertheless, he still pursued the deer, and it led him on to a great and beautiful meadow, where, to his astonishment, he saw six other deer, also white, of which one was rather larger than the rest, and had a golden ring round its

neck. He fired his pistols several times at it; but however good his aim, he always missed. The seven deer now bounded further on, and the count pursued. They passed in turn through thick forests, over fair pastures, and over mountains, till at last they came to a great castle, that no one seemed to dwell in, but on each side of the gate two gigantic lions kept guard.

When the deer came up, the gate opened. The deer and also the count rushed through, and then the gate closed of itself. The count now found himself in a large square courtyard, with another door opposite to the first. This also opened, and the seven deer ran out by it, whereupon the gate again closed, and the count was now shut in between the four walls.

He went up to the higher floors, and looked over the halls and rooms. All had golden walls, golden couches and tables, and in a smaller chamber there hung a large mirror, with a broad golden frame, and behind it was placed a roll of parchment. He took it out and read, 'He who sets free the banished princesses, shall have a whole kingdom; but he must overcome a monstrous ghost, which every night about twelve o'clock enters the house with a fearful noise, and again vanishes, after it has prowled around for about an hour, and has satisfied itself with the meats, which are in abundance on the golden tables.' When the count had read this, he was seized with horror, yet being well armed, he determined to encounter the monster. He took some food, and then retired to rest, for it was now late. The count lay

Repeat this three times, and you will be helped forthwith. If you have done your errand successfully, return by the same way, and a whistle will tell you that I am near you in the wood, and then you will learn all the rest.'

The labourer hesitated a little, but in the hope of gain he plucked up heart, and went on his way. He climbed a hill and espied a castle, which, however, was withdrawn from his eyes, and in its place he saw a blood-red banner, waving on a high pole. As he drew near, the banner vanished, and he found himself before the same castle that he had formerly seen. The labourer went in, and sat down on a stone bench in the forecourt to rest for a while, and to see what would happen. However, he observed nothing, and was about to get up, when he felt that he was firmly fixed to his seat. In his distress he remembered the couplet, and cried three times—

'Help! come with speed, For I'm in need.'

Then a little maiden appeared, and said that he must cut off a piece from the bench, and then he could get free. Then she vanished. The labourer had nothing but his pocket-knife with him. When he struck the first blow upon the stone, the knife split into two halves, and each half became an egg. This put him out of temper, and he threw the eggs on the stone bench; but they remained unbroken, while a piece of the bench lay on the ground, and he was able to get up. Then he

pocketed the wonderful eggs, and went up to the castle, to see who lived there. In the first stair he saw a large door standing open, which led to a roomy hall, and in the midst of the hall he saw a giant sitting on a richly covered table. When the giant was aware of the intruder's presence, he bade him welcome, and invited him to sit down to table. Desperately he sat down. The giant was very chatty, and told him all his adventures, in which he boasted of his extraordinary strength. His guest was greatly annoyed at this, and after turning the matter over and over in his mind, it occurred to him to offer one of his eggs to his mighty table companion; but while he was groping for it in his wallet, the giant boasted again that he was able to shatter a firm bar with a single blow. Thereupon he laid about him, and struck the head of his guest so heavily, that he fainted and fell to the ground.

When he came to himself, he found, to his surprise, that he was not in the dining-hall of the giant, but close by that rock where he was to slay the little man. He waited till sunset; and then he heard a song, which seemed to proceed from boys' and girls' voices. The song came nearer and nearer, and the labourer got into a bush, so as to watch them as they came by. Then appeared a train of dwarfs, leaping and singing. Among them was a larger one, and the smaller ones merrily tumbled about him. 'That must be the king,' thought the watcher, 'and perhaps it is he that I am to slay at midnight. Heartened up, he came out, went up to the

dwarf-king, and said to him, 'I have something important to talk to you about.' The dwarf gave a sign, and suddenly the song was silenced. The labourer led him aside and said, 'I have long been waiting for you, because I have to tell you that a wicked magician means to drive you out of your dwelling, and take all your treasures.' The dwarf wanted to know more, but the labourer answered him, 'For the present I can say no more, but will come at midnight to yonder rock; there I shall knock thrice; then do thou appear without any attendants.' The dwarf-king promised to come punctually, and then went on with his merry crew.

The labourer was now in despair, for he knew not when it would be midnight exactly. So he said his couplet three times, and there appeared a boy, who said, "Twill be midnight as soon as thou hear'st a dull roaring noise." The boy vanished, and not long after the labourer heard a peculiar sound. Then he took a stone, knocked thrice on the ground, and the dwarf appeared. While the latter greeted him, and asked for further information, the labourer fetched him such a blow on the head, that he sank down dead. At the same moment there sounded a shrill whistle, and instead of the slain dwarf stood a blooming youth before him, who could not thank him enough for his deliverance. About him stood a number of nobles and esquires, who rejoiced like their lord.

All now went down the mountain, and by the way the youth told the following story: 'I am the son of a

THE DWARF DELIVERED.

king, and along with my train was carried off in early youth by an evil magician. Not long after there came to my troubled father another magician, who promised to set us free. It was that beggar, who knew that I had been changed into a dwarf.

So they went on together for a stretch of the road, and fell in presently not with the old beggar, but with the mighty magician. He greeted them, and led them all to the royal court. Greatly rejoiced, the king sent the labourer a monstrous big piece of gold, and the magician added to it the property that it could be stolen by no one.

And so the poor day-labourer became a rich man.

BESOM-CAST, BRUSH-CAST, COMB-CAST.

In a castle there once lived a count, named Rudolf, whose lady had a golden cross upon her brow. Her daughter Adelaide had the like sign also upon her brow. When she was twenty years of age her mother suddenly died, and the grief of the count and his daughter was boundless. When the mother had been buried, the father and child shut themselves up in their rooms, and seldom saw any one. At the end of a month the count sent for his daughter, and said, 'Dear child, thou knowest how I loved thy mother; I cannot live without a consort, and therefore I am about to go forth into the wide world and seek a wife, who shall, like thy mother, have a golden cross upon her brow. And if within a year and a day I find none such, then I shall marry thee.'

When Adelaide heard these words, she was greatly dismayed, and departed in silence. Count Rudolf journeyed forth next morning with the promise to return within a year and a day.

When Adelaide was alone, she considered whether it

were possible that her father should find a lady with the mark of the cross. Then she remembered that her mother had once told her that beside herself and Adelaide, no living person had such a cross. determined to go forth, and rather earn her bread with the labour of her hands than eat the smallest morsel at her father's table as his spouse. She intrusted a devoted servant with her plan, and made all preparations for the journey. She secretly placed her jewels and ornaments. her gold and dresses, in several large carriages, caused them to be driven forward in the night-time, and departed, accompanied by her servant Gotthold, and several others who were devoted to her. into a great city, where she took a house, and went into it with her servants.

Adelaide had often said that she would earn her bread with her own hands. So Gotthold looked out for a situation for his mistress in the city. He found that in the castle of Prince Adolf the place of a cook-maid was vacant. So he went to the head-cook and asked him whether he was inclined to take his niece (so he called the countess) into service. Looking at the head-cook more closely, he recognised in him a friend whom he had not seen for many years. He now told him that his brother was dead, and had left him his daughter to look after. The head-cook agreed, and with joy the faithful servant of the countess departed, and stayed in the house she had rented. Adelaide now painted her face, her neck, and her hands brown, hid her golden

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cross and her hair in a large cap, put on old, dirty, and torn clothes instead of her own fine ones, and went to the head-cook. A small room was allotted her, in which she slept and kept her things. Gradually she became used to service, although she was very tired by the hard labour.

Hitherto she had not seen the prince. One day he invited all his friends and acquaintances to a grand ball. On the morning of the day Adelaide was sweeping the stairs, when the prince, without being observed by her came up the stairs and overturned the vessel which held the sweepings, so that his boots were covered with dust. Adelaide fled, and he, in his anger, took the besom and threw it after her. When in the evening the saloons were gradually filling with guests, the young countess went to the head-cook, and begged for permission to assist at the ball. But he answered, 'No, no; that I cannot allow. Suppose the prince should know of it!' But Adelaide persevered with her request, till at last he said, 'Go, then; but do not be late back, and if you get anything, bring me a part of it.'

She now went to Gotthold's dwelling, put on her grand clothes, washed away the paint, and hired a fine coach, in which she betook herself to the prince's.

When the guests saw the splendid carriage approaching, they all ran down and cried, 'A strange lady, a beautiful lady!' The prince ran to meet her, handed her out of the carriage, and escorted her up the staircase. She had to dance with him the whole evening,

and sit by him at table. After supper he asked her name and abode. 'Adelaide is my name, and I come from Besom-cast,' replied the countess. About twelve o'clock she departed, and with her the majority of the guests.

On getting back home she quickly coloured herself brown again, took three gold pieces and gave them to the head-cook, with the remark that she had stood behind a door, and had received the gold from an old woman.

Next morning the prince looked on his map for Besom-cast, but could not find it. He now wished to ask the lady again the name of her birthplace, but as he did not know where she lived, he sent out invitations for a second ball. On the morning of this second ball Adelaide was brushing her clothes when the prince came unobserved up the staircase. She turned round, and the brush fell from her hand on the prince's foot. In anger Adolf took the brush, and threw it at the head of the confused countess.

In the evening the head-cook allowed her again to go to the ball, and she availed herself of the permission. The prince told her that he had not found Besom-cast on the map, and she replied, 'How could you look for Besom-cast? I certainly said Brush-cast.' Again they danced together, and towards midnight she went home, and brought the head-cook a golden ring, saying it had been given her as a present.

Next morning the prince looked for Brush-cast, but

could not find it. He then invited his friends to a third ball, which was to be much more splendid than the two first. In the evening of the day, shortly before the beginning of the festival, Adelaide, contrary to her custom, was combing her hair; and the prince, vexed that the strange lady was so long in coming, went downstairs, just as the countess let her comb drop. Adolf picked it up, and threw it at the head of the cook-maid. Swiftly she went, dressed herself, and hastened to the ball. At table the prince said that he had nowhere 'I believe it,' said she; 'I certainly found Brush-cast. called the place Comb-cast.' He would not believe it; but she contended so long with him that at last he gave Before she departed he placed a ring on her finger, without her noticing it.

Next morning the prince was unwell, and he bade the head-cook make him some broth. The latter mentioned this in the kitchen, and Adelaide begged for permission to make it. But the cook said, 'If you put in anything that does not belong to the broth, I shall have to suffer for it.' She replied, 'I will not put in anything wrong,' and prepared the broth, but, unobserved, cast in the ring of the prince. The prince poured out the broth into a plate, and heard something rattle. He stirred about, and fished out the ring. Then he asked, in wonder, who had prepared the broth. 'The cookmaid,' was the answer. 'Bring her hither,' said the count. In haste she put on the dress she had worn the vening before; and as the prince looked on her, he

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recognised his partner in the dance. She had now to tell him the story of her life in all its particulars, and soon after he took her for his consort.

Her father meanwhile had returned home, and learning that his daughter was already married, he had to submit to his fate.

THE SOUNDING TREE.

ONCE there was a king's son, who, upon the death of his father, carried on the government. By his marriage he incurred the hatred of his mother, because he had not selected a bride who pleased her. Not long after the wedding the king had to go forth to a war, which lasted three years. His queen had meanwhile given birth to two fine boys. The mother of the king now designed to take her revenge, and wrote to the king telling him that the queen had given birth to a misshapen creature, and no more. The king wrote back that the mother was to be shut up in the hunger-tower, and the misbirth was to be cast into the water. was done, the two boys being placed in a box, which was then thrown into the water. The queen prayed to God, and He sent to her daily an angel with food. Near the castle was the pleasure-garden, and the gardener, who was fetching water, found the box. He opened it and found the boys inside. Full of joy he ran to his wife, and said, 'Now has the good God sent us a couple of boys, that we may adopt for our own.' The boys grew up and learned gardening.

Meantime the king had returned home, and as the queen came not to meet him, he asked where she was. His mother now explained to him that he himself had ordered the queen to be shut up in the hunger-tower, because she had given birth to a misshapen child. The king believed his mother, and this belief was strengthened when she told him that one boy had an ox's head and the other a horse's head. But from that time the king had no more rest. One evening as he passed by the hunger-tower he saw a light in its upper part. He went to the keeper and had the key given to him. When he came to the door of the prison where he saw the light he peeped through the keyhole, and saw his wife, and an angel standing by her. opened the door the angel vanished. The king fell upon the queen's neck, and begged her pardon. had now to tell him whether it was true that she had had a misbirth or no. And as she denied it he had her brought back to the castle, and the wicked mother was torn asunder by four horses. Search was now made everywhere for the two boys, but in vain. gardener was dead, and as the two sons kept the garden in good order, the king appointed them gardeners. return for this the two brothers desired to give the king pleasure by bringing the sounding tree, the speaking bird, and the golden water into his garden. had sought already for these three things, but none had The eldest brother set out, and came to a succeeded. hermit. He asked the hermit whether he knew anything of the three objects, and how he could come by The hermit said, 'My dear child, many hundreds have come to me and have asked the same question, but not one has returned, because not one followed the bird.' The gardener begged the hermit only to show him the way, and promised that he would follow the bird. 'Take this road,' said the hermit, 'and thou wilt hear the sounding tree.' And, in fact, after three days' travel, the gardener heard the sounding of the tree. Before he came up to it he had to pass through a great heap of stones, which had the form of human beings. Then he heard a voice call, 'Good morning, young man, what wouldst thou yonder?' He looked round, and saw the speaking bird on the sounding tree. thee I want,' said the gardener, 'and the sounding tree and the golden water.' The bird said, 'Break off a bough and take me with the basket down from the tree; then go to yonder rock, there lies a key, take it and open the door in the rock. With the vessel which thou wilt find in the rock take of the golden water, and when thou comest out of the rock look not behind thee, but go straight on. The gardener went, but as he came out of the rock the men-like stones came after him, and cried, 'Brother, take me with thee.' Hearing the noise, he looked round, and was changed upon the spot into a stone.

The second brother meantime waited for him in trouble, and as he came not, he too set out on the road, and came to the hermit, and asked him the way

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to the sounding tree, and whether his brother had not passed by that way. 'O yes,' said the hermit, 'but he cannot have followed the bird, and so he has not come back.' 'What road must I take to come to the sounding tree?' The hermit showed him the way, and gave him the same directions. After three days he heard the tree sound, and came to the stones. Seeing the stones, he thought they were men, and touched them, but they were only stones. The bird wished him good morning, and asked him what he wanted. 'Thee,' he answered, 'and the sounding tree, and the golden water.' He had now to do the same things as his brother had done. On stepping out of the rock the stones followed, and made a fearful noise, and cried, 'Brother, take me with thee.' But he went on, taking no heed of the noise, though it grew louder and louder. But he was so frightened that he fell to the ground. When he recovered and rose, he saw that many hundreds, released by him, stood around him. His brother and he now went with the bough, the bird, and the golden water to their home. Then the bird said, 'Place now the bough in the earth, dig a pit by the side of it, and place therein the vessel with the water, hang me with the basket on the bough, and go to rest. Until early morning all will be wonders.'

When the brothers awoke early next morning they heard the tree sounding, and the golden water was flowing down a high rock. The king hearing the sound, asked what it was, but none could say. At last he

THE SOUNDING TREE.

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went down into the garden, and was no little astonished to see the tree, the water, and the bird. Many kings came and wondered at the beautiful sight. As they loudly exclaimed, 'How beautiful!' the bird said, 'But one thing is not beautiful.' 'And what is that?' asked they. The bird replied, 'That the king suffers his sons to be gardeners.' 'What means this?' said the king. The bird, who knew everything that passed in the world, now told him all that had happened. The king, the queen, and all present, were greatly rejoiced that the two lost sons had been found.

THE COBBLER'S TWO SONS.

ONCE a cobbler went to fish, and caught three carps, each of ten pounds. As he went home he lost one of the fishes, which cried out, 'Stop!' But the cobbler said, 'I don't want you, because you can scream,' and The same thing happened with the second At last he lost the third, and when he said for the third time, 'I don't want you,' the fish cried out, 'Take me home, it will be good luck to you.' 'What good can you do me, poor fish?' asked the cobbler. 'Only take me home, and do what I now tell thee,' said the fish. 'Cut my belly open, and thou wilt find on the one side a lump of gold, and on the other a stone; bury these near a tree. Give the brains to thy wife, and she will present thee with two little boys with golden hair. Give the head to thy horse, and he will bring thee two colts with golden manes. Give the tail to thy dog, and he will give thee two little dogs with golden hair.'

The cobbler took the fish, did as he was told, and actually received the things the fish had named. As he had now become well-to-do by means of the lump of gold, he sent his two sons to school. There he met the schoolmaster on one occasion, and the schoolmaster asked why he did not send his two sons to school. The cobbler wondered at this, and when he got home he asked his little ones where they went to school. They answered they dare not say until they were twelve years old. They were very diligent at their books, and when they were twelve years old they confessed to their father that they had gone to school at the tree where he had buried the stone.

The two young ones now wanted to go into the wide world, and asked their father to give each of them a pony and a little dog; but their father would have nothing to say to this. But not long after, one night each boy took his pony with the golden mane and a little dog, and rode forth. When they had ridden some distance Hans said, 'My dear Seppl, we must now separate, for the two of us always see alike, and that I will climb this high oak and find out two won't do. roads.' He climbed up, and saw in the distance a light, then came down again and said, 'I go this way, you can go that; but that we may know how each fares, let us each fasten a rose on this oak. If one comes back and finds the other's rose faded, he will know that the other is ill; but if the rose is quite dry, he will know that he is dead.' The two now separated and went upon their ways. Then Hans came to an inn, and asked the host, 'What news?' 'Not much

news,' said the host, 'only that our king is going to give a fencing-match, at which any man may fight with his daughters' suitors, and if he conquers one of them, he is to have a princess for his wife.' 'Stay!' thought Hans to himself, 'perhaps I can fight too, and take my share with the rest.' He left horse and dog with the host, put on a ragged coat that belonged to the man-servant, and betook himself to the fencing-school. The match began. All those present had already fought with the suitor of the elder daughter, and no one had gained a victory. Only Hans was left. Then the courtier laughed, and said, 'Now, I shall soon have finished with this fellow.' But Hans had a quicker eye than the other, and ran him through the body. when the king's daughter saw that this ragged young man was to be her husband, she said to her father, 'I will not have him!' and then asked Hans if he would be content with 500 gulden. 'Oh, certainly, why not?' answered Hans, 'there are other ladies here,' and he And now the suitor of the pocketed the money. second of the princesses went into the lists, but none could overcome him. He also looked contemptuously on Hans as he came forth; but Hans punished him by hewing his arm off. But as the younger princess would not have him, he got 500 gulden more, which he merrily pocketed, with the words, 'There are others here!' And now came the suitor of the youngest princess; and he had his foot cut off by his last adversary, who was none other than our Hans.

this time the same thing did not happen as before. The last princess was pleased with the golden hair and the blooming countenance of the young man, and she said to Hans that he must come up to the castle-yard, and she would look down from the window and tell him whether she would have him for her husband or not. As she had promised, the lady appeared, and told Hans that he was king. And now they wanted to give Hans fine clothes, but he put them aside with thanks, begged for permission to absent himself for a short time, went to the inn, put on the fine clothes he used to wear, and rode on his pony, the little dog by his side, back into the castle. All were astonished when they saw the young king ride up on his horse with the golden mane, and by him the little dog with golden hair, while on his neck likewise his golden locks glistened in the sunbeams. The envy of the two elder sisters increased from hour to hour.

The marriage was celebrated, and the young couple lived happily for the first few weeks. But all was not at peace in the bosom of the eldest sister, for she was ever devising means to get rid of the young king. She went therefore to a witch who dwelt in a great forest outside the city, and asked her if she would not put him out of the way. 'Give me 300 gulden,' said the witch, 'and make ready for a hunt, in which he must pass through this forest, and I will put him out of the way, so that nobody shall see him any more.' The bargain with the witch was concluded, and the hunt

arranged at the princess's desire. The witch now seated herself on a high tree, in a remote part of the forest. Presently the young king came by, and seeing the little mother in this lofty height, he called to her, 'What dost thou up there? Come down!' 'Ah! my lord,' answered the cunning old woman, 'I dare not; the little dog might bite me. Take this rod, which I throw thee down, and switch about you, that the little dog may run away.' The young king caught the rod which she cast down, and struck over behind him, but at the same moment he vanished with his horse and his little dog. The news went like wildfire through all the city, and great was the mourning for the young king.

Let us now see what befell his brother Seppl. He came back one day to the high oak where he had separated from Hans, and saw with grief that Hans' rose was withered. 'Poor Hans,' he thought to himself, 'thou hast been even doomed to die, but I will at least ascertain where thou didst die;' and he struck into the same road that Hans had taken when they separated. When he came into the city all the windows were hung with black, and all was in mourning. He went into the inn, and asked what it meant. 'Why,' said the host, 'how can you ask? Don't you know that our young king has vanished? but it seems to me you only make believe, for you are yourself the king!' This was enough for Seppl, for he suspected that the young king was his brother, because they were very

much alike. So he went into the castle, and was received with great joy, he alone being very sad. When the consort of the young king asked him why he was so sad, for she thought it was her husband, Seppl said he was not the young king, but his brother. Meanwhile the eldest princess was in the wood with the witch, demanding back her 300 gulden, because the young king had come back. 'Go, fool,' said the old woman, 'that is his brother. Get ready for another hunt, and I will soon make away with this one also.' And in fact the envious sister contrived to bring about another hunt.

When Seppl, who now passed for the king, came to the place where his brother had vanished, he called out to the old woman sitting on the tree to come down. She answered, 'Ah! my lord, I am afraid; the little dog might bite me.' But this time the young king answered her otherwise. 'If thou comest not down, old witch,' he cried in a rage, 'I will shoot thee. Thou hast cast a spell on my brother, and if thou dost not instantly make him alive again, thou art a dead woman.' Then the old woman was afraid, and begged that he would only let her get down, and she would then make him alive again. When she got to the ground, she struck thrice with a rod on the earth, and before her lay the king, his horse, and his little dog, but dead. Now she touched each one with the rod, and all three were restored to life. With joy the two brothers greeted each other,

tore the old witch to pieces, and went back into the city. Unspeakable was the joy there. Hans again became king, and Seppl was named viceking. And if they are not alive, probably by this time they are dead.

ONE STRIKES TWELVE, TWELVE STRIKE NINE-AND-FORTY.

ONCE there lived a king who had a beautiful daughter. The princes came from far and wide to woo her. But she refused to marry, and caused her suitors each to propose a riddle to her, and if she could solve it, the foolhardy man's life was forfeited, and he was hanged.

A neighbouring prince heard of this strange princess, and determined to try his luck. He explained his plan to his old servant, but forbade him to say anything of it to his parents. Next morning was fixed for the departure. But the servant, faithfully devoted to the old king, betrayed the plan. The king had his son called, and endeavoured to dissuade him from his project; but the prince would not listen to his father, so the latter resolved to poison him, that he might not die by the hands of the hangman.

Early next morning the prince rose and mounted the horse brought by his servant, and would have left the castle without bidding his father farewell. Meanwhile the king appeared at the door, and held out to him a

farewell cup. But the prince, suspecting mischief, poured the liquor upon the head of his horse, cried farewell to his father, and rode out by the gate, his servant behind him.

After they had ridden some days they came into a great forest, which seemed to be without end. Presently the prince's horse gave a fearful plunge, the prince lost his balance and fell to the ground, and the horse lay dead. The poison had eaten through the whole head and neck of the animal. They had now to get on with only one horse.

Again they travelled several days, and came into a clearing in the forest, and saw a horde of wild-looking men, armed to the teeth, standing round a pit. They would have retired, but it was too late, for they had been observed. One of the band came forward and asked in a friendly manner whither they were journeying. The prince told them what his design was, and the robbers laughed in his face. 'Stay rather with us,' said they, 'we have just buried our captain, and if you will you may take his place.' Who knows whether this may not be a good idea, thought the prince; so he accepted the proposal, and was chosen leader by the united band, consisting of nine-and-forty men. They took him and his servant among them, and led them through thick and thin, till at last they came to a wild valley, and stopped before a block of stone. One of the robbers pressed on a secret spring, and immediately the stone turned as on hinges, and allowed a passage

to be seen, at first low and narrow, but gradually widening, and lighted by many torches and lamps. It ended in a spacious cavern, from which many passages led away in different directions. In this hall a long table was set out, covered with many dishes. They took their places round the table, ate and drank to their heart's content, and then separated to their rooms. Some remained with the new captain to show him their riches. They led him round, showed him their treasurv, their armoury, and their stables, for they had horses also. He had then to take an oath never to desert them. The next day the robbers got ready to go as usual upon their expeditions, but left their captain with his servant behind, that they might take some Fur the servant was not quite at ease in his mind so he left the cavern with the promise to return Sva By chance he came to the place where the reserved steed lay, and he saw that on the animal's head twelve dead ravens lay, which had doubtless eaten of the poisoned parts. Then he thought to himself, perhaps he could set himself and his lord free from their ill company, if he should succeed in poisoning the robbers. So he took his hunting-knife, cut off the poisoned parts, and put them, with the ravens, in his hunting-pouch. When he got back to the cavern he dressed the meat, but warned his master not to touch the game which he would put on the table.

Soon after the robbers came home in high spirits, for they had made a good capture of booty. Weary they

sat down to table, and made a hearty meal. But soon after they were seized by violent pains in the stomach, and one by one yielded to the effects of the poison. The captain and his servant pretended also to be in great suffering. When the robbers all lay motionless, the prince went to the stables and chose a pair of the finest horses, and strewed plenty of fodder before the others, so that in case he did not come back they might have nourishment for a time. Then, having thrown the dead bodies into the brook hard by, the prince and his servant left the cavern. Soon they reached the end of the forest, and saw the city which was the goal of their journey before them. The prince caused himself to be announced to the king by his servant, and he met with a friendly reception, the king inquiring what were his wishes. When the prince told him that he was come to propose a riddle to the princess, the king became very sad, and begged him to abandon his purpose. But the prince would not be dissuaded; so they announced him to the princess. She bade him state his riddle. He did so in these words, 'One strikes twelve, twelve strike nine-and-forty: tell me what that means.' The princess seemed in despair, and begged for three days to think over the riddle in. This was granted by the prince, and a suite of apartments was allotted to him, while a room was pointed out to the servant for his lodging. The princess knew not what to do, for she had never met with such a riddle. So she bade everybody to try and bribe the prince's servant,

and get the solution of the riddle from him. her chamberlain, who was a cunning fellow, to use every means to get the secret from him. The chamberlain took a good big jug full of the strongest wine with him in order to make the servant tipple; but it was in vain. The old servant drank the chamberlain under the table, and then cut off his mustaches, so that he might have a sign by which to expose the princess's cunning. Moreover, he gave him a good cudgelling, so that the chamberlain was glad to escape with a whole skin. The princess was flustered at this; nevertheless she sent her coachman. He was a gigantic fellow, with whom it was not safe to jest. But he fared no better; after a bout of drinking, he too got a sound thrashing. He fell down stunned; then the old servant tied his feet, and, taking out his razor, shaved his head bare, and then threw him out of doors. And now the princess resolved to try her own luck by going in person to the old servant. This came to his ears, and he told his master, who thereupon took the place of the servant that he might see the princess more closely. He was enraptured with her beauty, and told her all his story, including the solution of the riddle. Then the servant came up, seized his whip, and gave her several strokes, though his lord tried to ward them off. Also he took off the precious ring which he noticed on the princess's finger.

The day appointed arrived. The prince punctually appeared, and the princess was already awaiting him.

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She invited him to take a seat; and then spoke as follows: 'Thou art a prince, and thy father meant to poison thee, but thou didst pour the poison which he offered thee upon thy horse so that he died; of this horse twelve ravens ate, and these also died from the poison, and with these birds thou didst kill nine-andforty robbers to gain thy freedom. Have I guessed right?' Yes, he answered, and admitted it all. Then the servant of the prince came forward and said the princess had only learned the solution by cunning. And this he proved by the pair of mustaches, the hair, and finally the ring. Then the princess had to confess that she had only learned the answer by cunning, and she gave her hand to the prince.

Whether he took it, I know not.

HANS GUESSES RIDDLES.

THREE warriors who were weary of service deserted from the army in the company of a fourth, named Hans, whom they had tempted to follow them by telling him of wonderful things. As the four deserters dared not show themselves on the road in the daytime, they travelled in the night.

One evening they came into a great forest, where they halted and took rest. After eating a few pieces of stale bread, they again took the road. Suddenly they observed in the distance a light, and going up to the hut from which it shone, they knocked. An old man (it was the devil) opened, and let them in. They spent three days there; on the third day the devil said, 'If ye to-morrow guess not three riddles, ye will be given up to the devil.'

As Hans was a very God-fearing man, he went deeper into the wood, kneeled down and prayed to God that He would help him to guess the riddles. Then he was about to return to his comrades, but at the moment he heard a strange whirring in the air. As he looked up, he saw three ravens of diabolical appearance, which

were about to settle on a tree. In his curiosity Hans stood still and observed the ravens.

Greatly was he astonished when one began to speak. He listened, and heard the following words: 'Tomorrow I shall increase my train by four men. Three days have I had four guests with me, and to them I shall put riddles. The first riddle will be, "A dead cat that shall appear in the form of a fine golden chair;" he who sits upon it falls into my power. The second will be, "The head of a cat, which shall appear as a golden cup;" he that dares drink out of it falls into my power. The third will be, "A horse's foot, that shall appear in the form of a sword;" who touches it falls into my power. Tell me, have I not well chosen my riddles?'

'Good!' said the two other devils, 'we wish you good luck.'

But one said, 'Why art thou so cast down, friend raven?'

'Alas! my poor princess is in so ill a plight; she is lying sick, and there is a strict watcher set over her, who would starve her. Once the princess had taken a piece of bread without the knowledge of her watcher, and when the latter came into the room the princess cast it to the earth, and trod upon it. A toad came into the room, ate the bread, and crept under the threshold; but the princess became worse. He who would restore her must go and dig out the toad, and tread upon its back, then will the bread jump out; he

must crush it to dust, and mix it with the princess's food; then she will get worse, yet in the end be cured."

Then the ravens flew away.

Hans thanked God for the means He had given him, and set out to join his comrades, who were impatiently expecting him. He told them nothing of what had taken place, that he might carry out his plans.

In the evening the four warriors lay down to rest. Next morning the devil came to them with the first riddle of the chair. The oldest warrior, a lazy man, was going to take the chair and seat himself; but Hans cried out just in time, telling him the chair was a cat. The old one went away, and soon came back with the cup, which the second, a tippler, wanted to put to his lips at once. Then said Hans, 'What are you doing? that is an old cat's head.'

The devil again went away, but soon came back with the sword, which the third comrade wanted to try; but Hans warned him, saying, 'Venture not to touch that horse's foot, or thou art lost!'

Then there was a sudden and loud clap of thunder, and the four warriors sat in the open air on the trunk of a tree.

Hans now told his terrified comrades of the adventure in the forest, and proposed to them to go into the city, where the rich princess was. This was agreed to, and they went merrily forward.

After long wandering they reached the mourning city, which was all hung with black.

Hans left his comrades, and demanded admission to the king's palace, which, after many refusals, was granted to him.

First he was led to the king, who gave him charge to cure his daughter; but at the same time he swore that should he kill her, he must die; but should he save her, Hans should have the princess to wife.

Hans was not idle, but set vigorously to work. He dug out the toad, and prepared the dust, as the raven had directed, then gave it to the king's daughter, and departed. After a few hours he came back, and found the princess quite well.

Hans then took the princess to wife, and his comrades took service at the court.

The story is done, See the mouse run!

THE THREE MILLERS.

ONCE there lived a rich miller, who had three sons. They learned the trade of their father, and when their apprenticeship was finished they remained a few years in their father's house, and then went out into the world to learn something of its ways.

After travelling a considerable distance they reached a thick wood, and found that they should have to pass the night there. Late in the evening they noticed a light, and went up to it in the hope of finding a hut. Coming nearer, they found to their surprise a fine house, which was very brightly lighted. They knocked, the closed door opened with a loud creaking, and when they had entered the door closed of itself. They went into a great hall, which was very fine and richly furnished.

On their entrance a large number of dwarfs were busy covering a table. No sooner had they caught sight of the three persons, than they briskly united in a group, and made a profound reverence to the wanderers, after which they skipped out of the hall, yet only for a short

time. Soon after they came back with all manner of dishes, placed them upon the table, on which golden knives, spoons, and plates lay, and gave the friends to understand by a sign that they might sit down and enjoy the provision made. The millers did not need to be told twice, for they were tired after the long march, and both hungry and thirsty. When they had appeased their hunger, they asked the dwarfs whether they could not have a place to pass the night in. The dwarfs nodded assent. Then they went away, and presently returned with three fine beds, which they placed in a row, and then reverently bowed and retired. The wanderers then undressed and went to bed, not troubling themselves about the strangeness of the house, and soon fell asleep. Awaking in the morning, they noticed over the door of the hall a great tablet, on which it was written that each of the three men must solve one of the three following questions within a year: The eldest what he ate, the second what he drank, and the youngest what he lay upon. did not guess aright within the appointed time, they would fall, body and soul, into the hands of the possessor of this house.

The three journeymen laughed at these stupid questions, and rejoiced that they had their liberty for a whole year, without being obliged to work.

So they passed the year merrily, were served by the dwarfs, and little thought of the approaching day. Only on the last evening of the year it came into their mind, mil the youngest legan to weep aloud. In his distress he field from the house, and left his brothers in the forth. But soon he was fired, and lay down under a mee to rest. Then he heard a hissing overhead, and, sooking up, notated a great serpent. He moved not from the spect and cold drops of sweat covered his hears. After a while he saw that from the one a second, and then a third were formed. Then the first began to speak: 'My flesh!' the second, 'My blood!' and the third. 'On my bones!' Then they all three vanished.

The miler fell into deep thought. Suddenly he seemed to have hit it, and jumping up, ran in haste to the castle. A giant opened the gate to him. Then he jut the question to the eldest, 'What eatest thou?' He replied. 'I live on beef and meat of all kinds.' Then the giant touched him with an ivory rod, and he was forthwith changed into a dwarf, and betook himself to the company of the others. Then came the turn of the second. He was asked, 'What dost thou drink?' 'Water and wine,' was the reply; and he too was changed into a dwarf. Then the youngest was asked, 'On what dost thou lie?' And he replied, 'On my bones.'

The giant angrily stamped with his foot on the ground, and stepping back, said, 'None of those who are here spell-bound could guess this riddle; thou art the only one, and thou hast become their deliverer.' Thereupon he brandished the rod, and, with a thunder-

ous sound, the giant and the building vanished, and the dwarfs were changed into their original form. All thanked their deliverer, and took each his way homeward; and the miller's three sons went back to their father and related their experiences.

THE THREE TASKS.

Once there lived in a great city a mighty king, who had an only daughter. When she had reached her eighteenth year, and no bridegroom had offered himself, the king thought it would be best to give his daughter to any man who would perform the tasks assigned to him by the king. With this object the king caused the tower which stood in his city, and was famed for its immense size and height, to be decked with banners. It was so high that all his subjects could see it.

At first the people knew not what the banners on the old tower meant, and made inquiry on the subject. Then the three sons of a peasant, named Mathias, Jacob, and Hans, resolved to try their luck. They set out, and, in passing through their father's garden, the eldest said to the youngest, who was rather stupid, 'Shut the door.' But Hans thought he said, 'Take the door.' So Hans took the door off its hinges, and carried it on his back.

The two others did not trouble themselves much about Hans, and did not once notice that he was carrying the door upon his back. When the night came on,

they had to look out for a place to sleep in, and resolved after some consideration to climb a tree, so that they might be safe from the wild beasts. And now the brothers saw, for the first time, that Hans had brought the door along with him. They scolded him for this, and told him he must carry the door up the tree, so that no trace of a human presence should be visible on the ground. And they pushed, and pushed, until they had got the door up.

The brothers now stretched themselves out, and soon fell asleep. But they were awakened by some shots, and to their great horror they observed some robbers approaching the tree, under which they proceeded to encamp. Although the brothers kept quite quiet, the robbers soon observed that some one was above, and took their pieces to fire at the strangers. Hans, seeing these preparations, was so terrified that he let the door fall, and by its fall it killed the robbers.

The two elder brothers now perceived that they were served by Hans' stupidity, and behaved more kindly to him. The three wanderers remained sitting on the tree all night, and waited the break of day to pursue their journey.

Scarcely had the first streak of dawn appeared when the three brothers came down, and went on their way singing. After some hours they arrived before the royal palace, begged for admission, and gave the reason of their coming. Then said the king, 'Two of you may go your way, for I have only one daughter, and she wants out one procession. But reither of the brothers would you must even turne to a spurped till at less the king tille the milest female.

The sing and asked Maintas proteering his relations, and then gave turn the following task to perform: There exists sail to a gibben ship, not on the water, but no the land. It must have no cars, but must be moved by sails turningh the air.

In coming this Mathias went streamfully home, and that by himself this brithers had already gone before that

Mean tay Minitus want into the firest, hoping that the stip will be regard the task as performed if the ship was their too of wood. So he felled a fine tree, and to their lay and right at the ship. The third day he felt very weary, and could not help falling asleep. On awaking, an old man came to him and begged for a piece of tread. Mathias treated him roughly, and thrust him away. The old man went, saying as he went, "Mathias, Mathias, thou wilt rue it." Scarce had he spoken these words when he vanished, and the tree, which had almost assumed the form of a ship, stood up again in its former glory before the astonished Mathias.

Gradually his wonder gave place to wrath, for his three days' labour was all in vain. He went home and told his misfortune to his parents, who, however, could give him no explanation of it. The appointed time was past, and Mathias was still at home. Two days after the expiry of the time there came messengers, and

sadly Mathias went to the royal castle. He could not excuse himself, and so was condemned to death.

When his parents heard of this they were greatly troubled, and forbade the two younger brothers to sue for the hand of the princess. But the brothers refused to obey, and the second went into a dense forest and selected a fine tree. He then began, like his brother, to hew the trunk into a ship. When in his weariness he fell asleep, there came a woman, woke up the sleeper, and begged for money. Jacob treated her harshly, and she went away, saying, 'Tree, stand up!' and immediately the tree stood up again in its full glory.

So Jacob fared no better than his brother, for he had not accomplished the task.

And now came the turn of the youngest brother. Hans went into the forest, hewed down a fine tree, and built out of it a ship. He finished his task singing; and when it was done there came to him a hideous old woman, and asked for a kiss. Hans did not hesitate, but embraced the old woman, and kissed her, not once, but several times. Then she said to him, 'The victory is thine!' She then repeated something over the ship, and lo! suddenly the ship was changed into pure gold, and began to move. It bore Hans to a great mountain, named Kravihora, and here it rested. Hans waited until the ship should again begin to move. lasted too long, for the bread which his mother had given him was already consumed. The third day having passed, and the ship being still at rest, he cried in net in Wimin, time linker? Stiddenly he heard the rising of a brook and going to it, he said, 'Dear in sting they are and stidenly Hans read on the samue of the brook the words. 'Not far from me lies a time time of the fourth.

He lossed for me pipe and found it, and going on court deput to pipe. Then a man appeared, who issued. That who made? Hans told him his trouble, where open are man said that if he shoot in urgent need to write be taid only to pipe, and he would come and produce and to the and of the

Soon after the ship organ to move, and carried him to a feel. Here it rested. Then a hunter came and goes Hors a trouped telling aim only to blow if he rested anything that a hunter could get for him. Then the saip organ again to move, and here him to the saips castle.

The king linked with astroishment on the man and the ship, which but so deverly through the air. Hans stapped but of the ship, and the king invited him to a merry feast. Then Hans asked the king what was the second task and the king replied, 'Fetch me a jug of water in the time between your getting up from your chair and year standing upright!'

Hans recalleated his pipe, piped upon it as he got up, and the jug stood on the table.

The third task was 'to call together all the sheep on God's earth, and let the king see them.' Hans blew into his trumpet, and suddenly there was a multitude of

sheep, including all those which the king possessed in other lands.

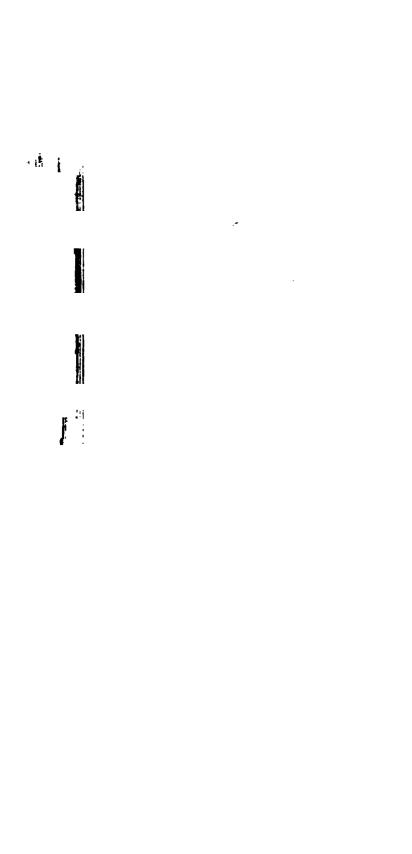
The next day the betrothal was to take place. But the princess would not recognise Hans as her suitor, and begged the king to set him some further tasks. But the king refused, saying, 'Hans has performed his three tasks.' So it was of no avail; the princess became the wife of Hans, and lived long and happily with him.

PIPING HANS.

MANY, many years ago there lived a man who had a son, who, as he grew up, had to take service as a shepherd with strangers. For a considerable time he kept himself and his father, when suddenly a desire to rove took possession of him. Nothing could now keep Hans at home; only elsewhere, as he thought, could he make his fortune. So he took his stick and wandered into a great city. Entering one of the first great inns, he heard that the king intended to marry his daughter, and that any one could come forward as suitor. Thought Hans to himself, Twill cost nothing to try, and had himself announced. Next day all the suitors repaired to a great meadow. There the princess threw as many potatoes into the air as there were suitors. Those that caught nothing had to withdraw: but any suitor who caught one had to perform three tasks set by the princess. None succeeded, and they all had to retire with downcast faces. now Hans' turn came. He was last, because of his low origin.

The first task which none had performed was to take





care of several hundred hares, and in the evening to bring them back, all told.

Hans went for the day in great trouble into the forest, and roamed about, having given up all hope of success, when suddenly, as if she had sprung out of the earth, a wrinkled old woman stood before him. his terror he would have run away, but she held him fast, and asked him in a kindly manner why he was so troubled. Hans thought nobody could help him, but he told her the reason, so as to be rid of her importunity, and would then have gone on, but she called him back and threw him a little pipe. Hans could not think what was the use of this pipe, still he put it in his pocket and went home, as it was now evening. Ouite early he turned his steps to the castle. Soon there was a stir, and the princess had the hares set free from the stable; but when the last was out not a trace of one of them could be seen. Hans ran after them, and came to a pasture in the midst of a forest, took out his pipe, and piped till the forest resounded with the echoes. In a twinkling there were all the hares! This was indeed a rich meadow-crop for him. The princess, who did not wish to have a shepherd for her spouse, tried to entice a hare from him by her cunning. dressed herself like a peasant girl, took a basket on her arm, and went to Hans in the forest. Hans immediately recognised her, but did not betray himself. waited until she had come up to him. She asked whether he had any cheap hares. He answered with a

short No. 'But how can I earn one, at all events?' said she. 'By being friendly and hearty with me,' said he. After some delay the princess gave him a kiss, and she got the desired hare. With joy she went her way; but she had not gone far before Hans began to pipe with all his might. Swiftly the hare sprang out of the basket, and in a moment he was with the flock again. The princess did not notice it, and only discovered her loss when she got back.

And now the king determined himself to go and entice a hare from Hans by any means he could. dressed himself like a Jew, and set out with an ass and a couple of panniers for the forest pasture. Hans immediately recognised him, but did not betray himself, and quietly went on piping. 'Have you a hare to barter?' said the king in a Jewish accent. 'If you will do me a favour you shall have one for nothing, said Hans. Then the disguised king's face cleared up, and he asked, 'Now, what can I do for you?' Hans said, 'Give the ass there a kiss.' At first the pretended Jew hesitated, but at last he prevailed upon himself to do as Hans requested. He then received the hare, and put it in one of the panniers, and went on his way. As soon as he was a little way off Hans sounded his luring notes, and immediately the flock of hares was complete again.

In the evening Hans drove his flock back to the castle, and none could deny that he had performed the first and most difficult task. But now came the second.

He was to separate from one another in a pitch-dark room several pecks of peas and kidney beans. He went thither, piped, and forthwith came some hundreds of ants which began at once to meddle with them. After some time the peas and the beans lay apart in heaps. This was a vexation to the king, and he set Hans the third task. Hans was to fetch many hundred eggs from the bottom of a deep lake, and that in the night-time. He went to the lake and piped, and immediately there was a multitude of fishes, which had fetched out the eggs before daybreak. Now he had won the day, and as he was a pretty lad, the princess at last consented, and married him. Hans took his old father home, became in due time king, and lived happy and content.

MR. CLUCK.

ONCE two brothers wandered through a great forest, and were there joined by a traveller. The three became good friends, and resolved not to separate from one another, and only to remain in the town where all should find work. But as in no town could they all be employed at the same time, they kept journeying on. At last their money came to an end, and their provisions gave out; they had only a piece of bread left. As it was too small to divide, the elder brother Hans said to the others, 'He who shall have the fairest dream, let him have the piece of bread all to himself.' The proposal was adopted; and as it was evening, they lay down in the forest, all hungry as they were, to rest When the two brothers had fallen asleep, the third are up the piece of bread, and then lay down and tell askep. Next morning when they awoke, Hans said, I dreamed that I was in Paradise; there I could eat and drink all that I wished.' Then said the younger brother. But I dreamed that I was in Heaven, and there I had more than I wanted of everything, and was served to my heart's content. Then said the third, 'As I knew that you were in Paradise and you were in Heaven, where you had abundance of everything, I ate up the piece of bread, for here I lay down hungry in the forest.' Then the two brothers were very angry, and after quarrelling for a time, they set forward on their journey. Only in the next inn could they satisfy their hunger. There they got into a quarrel with robbers, and the third man lost his life. The two brothers then took their departure and hid themselves in a dense thicket, in which they passed the whole night.

Next morning they went on, in great trouble at the loss of their companion. Presently they came to a castle. Both were hungry and tired, but neither ventured into the castle, for they thought they might fare no better than in the robbers' hut. At last Hans resolved to risk it, and went in. As there was nothing to excite his suspicions, he went back and invited his brother in. They then went over the whole castle and looked at everything. At last they came into a great hall, in the midst of which stood a table. In one corner of the hall there was a chest filled with papers. Its lid was open. Hans looked through the manuscripts and found a leaf of paper, on which were written the two words, 'Mr. Cluck,' He pronounced the name, and immediately there stood before him a dwarf, all clad in black, who asked him what he wanted. two brothers were terrified, and would have run to the door, but the little man said, 'Only ask for what you valued I will arrend to it? At last they asked to

when they were refreshed, and no one had asked for a reckning, which they could not have paid, they set the again. Soon they came to a field which a firmer was sowing, and because they went over the field without taking heed of the fresh-sown seed, they releaved such a beating from the farmer that they sank firwh taking heed of the Farmer that they sank firwh taking weary under a tree. Suddenly Hans dived not his pouch and drew out a leaf of paper. It was the leaf in which was written the words, 'Mr. Cluck.'

He had put it back in his pouch when the black dwarf at peared the first time. Now, as soon as he had read it again, the black dwarf stood before him, and asked what was his desire. Now did Hans know the meaning of the mysterious words, and rejoiced that the dwarf appeared so punctually. As the peasant had heaten them so unmercifully, they got the dwarf to give him a thrushing in return. Not content with this, the younger brother wanted a present from the dwarf, and desired a purse of gold. Having received it, he left his brother and went back home. But Hans continued his journey, and came into a great city, full of strange knights, so that all the inns were thronged. In the · whole city there was no place for Hans to lodge in, till he came to a small inn, where he hired a small garret. He asked the landlord why so many strangers were staying in the city, and was told that the old king was going to give his daughter to the man who should

perform three tasks. First, he must, riding by on horseback, take off with his lance a golden ring fastened to a thread; next, he must split with his lance a golden apple as he rode by; and lastly, he must overcome a slave of the king's, well known to be the strongest in the whole land, and who had been as yet overcome by none.

Hans had the boldness to think of taking part in the contest, so he called the dwarf to him and asked his advice. Mr. Cluck promised him for next day a black horse, with a suit of armour, if he would meet him in a particular spot in the forest, and after the games he would take it back again. Next day, when he came to the appointed spot in the forest, everything was ready. Hans put on the armour, mounted the horse, and rode to the ground. When he got there all the strangers respectfully made place for him, for they did not know the strange knight; moreover, he had the finest set of armour and the finest horse among all the knights The sign to begin was given, but Hans remained until all the knights had in vain sought to take off the ring. At last his turn came. He then bounded with his fiery horse into the arena, and took the ring off with the first thrust. Then the spectators raised a loud cheer, and led him to the king's daughter, who put the ring on his finger. Then they rode to the city. When they arrived at the gate Hans turned his steed aside and rode to the appointed spot in the forest. There he handed over the steed and the armour to the dwarf, and bade him bring another horse and another suit of armour on the following day, when the second task was to be performed.

Next morning Hans went into the forest, and there was the dwarf waiting, with a silver suit of armour and a brown horse.

Hans rode to the arena, and already at a distance all made place for him, for again they recognised not the strange knight with the silver armour. This time again he conquered and rode off. Knights were sent after him, but they could not overtake him. When he got back to the forest he handed over the armour and the horse to the dwarf, and bade him next day bring another horse and another suit of armour, that he might fulfil the third task. Next day 'Mr. Cluck' brought him another suit and a white horse. This time, as he appeared on the ground, he excited more attention than lefore, but was not recognised. He vanquished the king's strongest slave, and rode away. A troop of horsemen rode after him, and a soldier thrust a lance into his heel. The old king, who was sick, and could not attend the sports, had given orders that the strange knight should be brought to him whether living or dead. Nevertheless, Hans got off and handed over the armour and the horse to the dwarf in the forest. In the inn he bound up the wound, and to the question of the host what ailed his foot, he replied that his shoe had pinched him, and the host was satisfied with the answer.

When the horsemen came back without the stranger the old king was wroth, and caused messengers to be sent through the whole city to search for the wounded knight. The soldiers had already searched through the whole city and found nothing.

The inn where Hans lay was the last house, and the messengers were about to return, for they thought to themselves that so distinguished a knight would not lodge in such a hut. However, one went into the house and called to the others to make search, that they might not be reproved for not fulfilling the behest of the king to the letter.

They had searched all through and found nothing, so they asked the host whether he had anybody in the house, but he answered there was nobody but a poor traveller in the garret, who could not be the person wanted. The host had to take them up, and when they saw Hans with the bound-up foot, they asked him what was the matter with it. Hans told them as before, that his shoe had caused the wound. But it was of no avail, he had to show his wound, although he resisted.

They immediately recognised that the wound proceeded from the lance, and led him before the king. He was very glad, and prepared to fulfil his promise.

Next day the wedding was celebrated, and Hans was now the young king. In the evening he called the dwarf to him, and asked him whether he could not build him a new palace? 'Mr. Cluck' said Yes, and promised to do so in the course of that very night.

The day after, quite early, there stood a great palace before the castle of the old king, such as had never been seen before. The people stood around and gazed at it, and after some time there rose such a shout that the old king awoke and looked out of the window. was quite astonished, and asked his successor whence the palace had so suddenly come. 'I caused it to be built during the night,' was the reply, and the old king was lost in astonishment.

The young king and queen went that day into the new palace. In the evening came 'Mr. Cluck,' and begged for the billet on which his name was written. The young king gave it to him, thinking he needed it no more, as he had now reached his height. retired to rest with his consort. Next morning they lay upon the open street, and the palace had disappeared. Hans had thus given away his power along with the

billet.

When the people found the royal pair sleeping on the open street they raised a loud shout of laughter, so that the old king awoke and looked down out of his window on the street. When he saw the object of the popular jesting he was wroth, caused the young king to be bound and cast into an ant-heap in the forest. While Hans lay there in his bonds he heard the cracking of a whip, it came nearer and nearer, and at last he saw three large wagons, loaded with old shoes, and beside the first wagon walked proudly 'Mr. Cluck.' When he came up to the unlucky king, the latter cried out and begged the other to set him free from the antheap; but the other shook his head and said, 'I have already done much for thee, and ever served thee, now help thyself! See these shoes, wherewith three wagons are laden? I have torn them all for thy sake.' The poor king ceased not entreating, and said, 'Let me once more kiss the billet before I die.' 'That I can grant thee,' replied the other, and reached the billet to his mouth. But Hans, instead of kissing it, seized it with his teeth, and cried, 'Mr. Cluck!' and from that moment the dwarf was again in his power, and had to dance to his piping.

Hans now bade him set himself free and fetch him clothes. Also, he had to collect an army, with which he marched against the city, and took it by storm. The old king was taken prisoner, and had to give up to Hans his young bride.

The young king now had another palace built for him on the spot where the former had stood. When he was ready he called the dwarf to him and handed over to him of his own accord the billet, on condition that he would never disturb him in his happiness. 'Mr. Cluck,' who was none other than the devil, gave his word, and Hans lived long with his spouse in undisturbed happiness.

HANS WITH THE GOITRE.

CNEE upon a time there lived a man who had three sons, one of whom, named Hans, was not quite master of his five senses. As the father intended that his sons stablid like himself, learn something of the world, he transsed to them to leave home, and get their living at a distance. They fell in joyfully with the proposal, and set out the next day. They came to a dark forest and entamped under the shady boughs of a fir-tree. Here two soon fell asleep from weariness, while Hans lined his crop, which he could use as a bagpipe.

Suddenly he saw upon the tree a monkey. smiled in so friendly a way that the ape, who perhaps thought he saw one of his own species, instantly slipped down and perched on Hans' shoulder. When the two others awoke they were astonished at their comrade, and proposed to Hans that he should go through the world with the ape, thinking that if he trained the animal to perform various tricks he would earn a good deal of money. Hans agreed, and took leave of his brothers, who were tired of him. He began to practise the monkey a little, and came with him to a city, where

the annual fair was going on. He hired a booth, and began his performances. Soon a crowd of spectators gathered round his booth. Who was merrier than Hans? But when he went round to collect their money, the crowd dispersed, and Hans went back into his booth with only a couple of groschen.

When he repeated the tricks, a still greater crowd of spectators collected before the booth. Again he obtained so little, that in a rage he blew at his bagpipe, the goitre, and blew so strongly that he almost burst it. At the very first tones the money flew in heaps into the booth, and even on to his cheeks. Hans did not trace them, for the pieces glistened like silver and not like buttons. He had collected a pretty sum of money, when the ape suddenly put an end to all his good fortune; for as a slave of the king, who was just entering the city, laden with the finest fruits of the land, passed by Hans' booth, the ape leaped from the booth and snatched some of the fruits.

In a moment Hans was torn away from the booth with his companion, and cast into a gloomy prison. And certainly Hans would not have escaped death had not the princess taken pity upon him. He was very sad, and scolded the ape for his greed; while the ape, who seemed to understand the grumbling of his master, had retired into a corner of the prison to be safe from his wrath. About midnight the ape began howling; Hans hastened, in spite of his anger, to his comrade's help, and felt to his horror the coil of a mighty serpent round

his body. Hans took his cudgel and beat the serpent so viciently that it fell to pieces; and it was a wonder that the ape remained alive. After these violent exertions he fell asleep, and only awoke towards noon next day. When the jailer entered the prison after the noon, he saw the vast fragments of the serpent, on which a price had long been set by the king. Beside himself with joy, he took the head and brought it to the king, and gave out that he had slain the magic serpent; for it had been decreed by the king that he who should slay that serpent, and bring its head, should receive twenty tons of gold. The king was greatly astonished, and seemed to see a supernatural being in his jailer; but soon he saw that he was mistaken in him; for when he asked after the crown, the jailer knew not what to answer, and departed. Every chink in the wall of the prison he searched, but nowhere was it to be found. king threatened him with death if he did not bring the crown, or, at least, say who was the conqueror of the serpent. But all attempts to recover the crown were unsuccessful; for the ape had secretly put it on one The term of Hans' punishment expired, and he was let out of prison. Even now he saw not the crown in the monkey's possession, because it was still sprinkled with the blood of the slain magician, and was invisible to everybody.

Once the king was taking a walk, when he saw afar off a light, which shone like the sun, and blinded his eyes. In the splendour he immediately recognised the crown, went nearer, and saw Hans and his comrade, who was playing with the crown, that was pure as a metal mirror, and had no more any trace of blood. Hans had paid no attention to the plaything of his comrade, but was now to learn its immense value. it was a means by which vast treasures could be obtained. Hans at first did not understand the honour which had fallen to his lot, when he and his comrade were sent for and taken in the finest court chariot to the king. king asked how he came into possession of the crown. Hans could only reply that he had slain the serpent with a club; but how the ape had come into possession of the crown, that he knew not. The ape, as if he understood this conversation, showed by his gestures that he had taken it from some one's head. The king's doubts were at an end, and he caused the lying jailer to be slain. Hans presented the king with the crown, and the latter was so pleased therewith that he promised Hans to give him his daughter. Such good fortune he had not dreamed of. In course of time, however, the court no longer pleased him, and he longed for his simple life again. Besides, he could not move in refined circles with his bagpipe. Had his bride possessed such a feature, he certainly would not have despised her hand. The king tried every means to keep him at the court; but Hans made up his mind, and was not to be talked out of his purpose. And actually one day he was found to have disappeared. He had taken neither money nor a better suit of clothes with him. With his

companion he had gone far into the country, and found, state of begging and praying, no entertainment. Not a hit of bread did they offer him. Now he again had recourse to his bappipe, and taking up his position in the market-place, blew so lustily that some stones on which he sat were moved from their sockets; and still it was of no avail. He was driven out of the city, because he had thus thrown down the stone-wall.

Then he rued his folly; but repentance was too late. Despairing of help, he went into a wood, intending to hang himself. But at the very moment that he was winding the cord round his neck, there stepped out of the thicket a fine gentleman, who greeted him in a friendly manner. Hans was alarmed at the unexpected appearance, but the lord bade him be in no fear, he was come to his help. Hans, whose looks were fixed on the ground, and who dared not look the stranger in the face. soon perceived with whom he had to do when he saw the horse's hoof. But the purse which the devil held out to him, and from which the bright gold pieces sparkled, soon drove away his terror. The devil now gave him the purse, with the words, 'Here is an inexhaustible purse for thee; but take heed, I shall return in seven years' time, and if thou canst not then tell me the seven truths, thy soul will belong to me.' So saying. the devil vanished. Hans bought a carriage and two good horses, that he might go in quest of his brothers.

They, after separating from Hans, had gone to a city where the daughter of the king lay sick; and she had been promised to the suitor who should cure her of her sickness. The two brothers had attempted it, but they could not restore her health, and were doomed to torture and death. From all lands came physicians to try their fortune, but not one succeeded. At last our Hans drove up, and rattled through the city gate. He at once inquired for his brothers, but learned, with grief, of their death. He fell into deep melancholy, and it was long before he could be comforted.

But he became in high spirits when he heard that the king's daughter had a goitre like his own. He determined to use every means to obtain her, and gave all his thought to this dangerous undertaking. But as the noise in the city oppressed him, he quitted it, and went into the country. From early morning till noon he lay in the shade of a forest, but, in spite of all his study, discovered no means whereby he could perform the difficult task. Already the sun was setting, and still nothing occurred to his mind. But suddenly he heard a rustling, which became louder, and as it came nearer turned into a clatter. In a rage he arose, and saw a skeleton approaching. Hans trembled in all his limbs.

'Bones,' however, sat down and bade Hans do the like, whereupon he recovered his presence of mind. Then Bones began to murmur: 'The reason of thy coming hither is not unknown to me, and thou seemest worthy of my friendship. If thou canst outreach me in cunning, I will get the princess for thee; but if not, thy head will fall by the axe of the executioner, and thy

soul into the power of the devil.' At these words Hans sat as if he were eating a bit of sorrel or clover, at which one's stomach turns five times. 'If I stand at the head of the sick girl,' said the skeleton further, 'she is lost beyond hope; but if I stand at her feet, she will recover her health. Try now thy fortune.' With these words the skeleton sprang up, gave Hans a box on the ear, and departed as quickly as he had come. Our Hans had lost his senses on receiving this rough box on the ear. For a long time he dared not move his cheek, thinking it must long have become bone; but at last he plucked up heart, and ventured on the dangerous expedition.

Hans put on a better suit of clothes, and went to the king. He feared not death, for he had no more interest in life. Quite alone he entered the chamber of the sick princess; and how he was rejoiced when he saw a 'meal sack' round the neck of the rich princess! But at the same moment he became pale with fright when he saw the stranger appear at the head of the invalid. Hans now collected all his senses, that he might get happily out of the scrape into which he had fallen. But no means, whether for his own safety or that of the princess, occurred to him. Yet help was nearer than Hans thought. The ape, whom Hans did not suspect to be so near, sprang through the window into the sickroom, and so turned the bed round that Death came to stand at the feet of the princess. At the same moment the sick one felt better, and in a few minutes she stood

up, alive and well. The father was called in; and he, full of joy, called in his counsellors to thank the deliverer. Forthwith preparations were made for the wedding, and it was celebrated with the utmost splendour.

Hans had now become a very rich man, for he had, besides all the rest, the inexhaustible purse. His ape, to which he had become most affectionately attached, was lost one day, and never after was seen. gradually the seventh year was drawing to a close, and as yet he knew none of the seven truths. There were a few days more, at the expiry of which he was to be fetched by the devil; and as in his distress he dared not keep the secret hidden, he revealed it to the king, who gave him a talisman, by means of which he might protect himself from the devil. About midnight he went to the churchyard, and saw, by means of a magical preparation, the devil playing a game with the skulls. 'Ha!' thought Hans, 'my soul was not enough for thee, thou wouldst have that of my consort also.' In rage he returned to the palace. As the last night came, he went again to the churchyard, where he found the devil in the form of a wild-looking man. But as he laid the talisman on his breast, the devil cowered, and changed into a humpbacked Jew with a horrible goat's beard. Hans laid his spell upon him on a rock, which rose above the sea hard by. Next day he went in company of his court to the rock, and the goatee with the flowing beard came down. Hans did not blench, but caused him to be cast on a wagon, bound and drawn



EINS WITH THE GOITRE.

incomp all busies and thomy bedges, so that after an hour the devil name our quite mangled. Hans then three him him a warm-proof vessel, and with the words, "Those are the seven truths," he twisted his nose, put the hid in the vessel, and threw it down the precipice.

After this Hans lived with his consort in peace and content.

THE KING DOES NOT BELIEVE EVERYTHING.

ONCE there was a king who believed everything he was told. He promised that the man who should tell him something he could not believe should have the hand of his daughter and his throne. Then there came men from all quarters of the world, and babbled all manner of stories; and he believed them all. A workman was travelling through the land over which the king ruled, and heard that he was to have the king's daughter who should tell the king something which he could not believe. Hans thought to himself, 'I will try my luck.' So he went before the king, and said, 'O king, I will tell thee something that thou wilt not believe.' 'Good.' said the king; 'but if I believe all thou sayest, then thou shalt lose thy head.' Hans agreed, and began his 'Once I went out into the field and sowed hemp, and lo! it sprang up under my feet and grew as high as a church tower.' 'Yes, I believe thee,' said the 'Then I tried to clamber up the hemp,' Hans went on, 'and I managed capitally, for the hemp was so thick and strong, and grew straight as a pine up to

heaven. When I got up I looked over towns and villes meadows and forests, mountains and valleys, brooks and rivers, and having seen all to my heart's content, I wanted to glide down, but, mercy on me! I happened to let go the hemp, and fell down twenty feet deep into the earth. Then I was very frightened, and ran as quick as I could to my house, fetched a stade, and dug myself out of the ground, and then went home quite tired.' 'I believe that too,' said the king. Hans went on, 'When next day I came to the field, I noticed to my great surprise that the hemp was aiready so tall, it reached to the clouds. I had once made up my mind to visit heaven, and now it occurred to me that perhaps this would be the easiest way; but the hemp did not seem to me high enough. After a few days I went again to the field, supposing the hemp must now reach to heaven, and clambered up the hemp into heaven. The journey took me a year.' 'I believe you,' said the king. Hans went on, 'But there everything was so beautiful and splendid I could not wonder and admire enough. Angels flew about in the air, and sung lovely songs and hymns in praise of the Creator. Then I saw many old acquaintances, all in the finest clothes, riding in silver coaches. And what joy! I saw my beloved parents sitting in a golden chariot taking a drive. Then I went on further and saw thy father and thy mother, O king,-covered with rags, keeping a herd of swine!'

''Tis false,' cried the king in anger, 'thou didst not

see it.' 'O yes, I actually saw it,' replied Hans laughing; 'but now forget not thy promise, and give me thy daughter to wife.'

The king had to do so, because he would not believe what Hans had said.

THE PRESENT OF THE WIND.

ONCE there lived a peasant with his wife in the greatest poverty. The peasant was a very goodnatured man, but his wife was so ill-tempered that she often beat him for mere trifles. One day she sent the patient man with corn to the mill; the miller, who knew their poverty, ground the corn for nothing. When the peasant went home, a strong wind arose and blew all his corn away. Of course he fared very badly at home. His wife sent him to the Wind that he might demand of it money or the meal. So he went on and came into a forest, where he met a little old mother. She asked him why he was so sad. Then he told her all, and she said, 'Follow me. I am the mother of the Wind, and have four sons, the East, West, South, and North Wind. Which of these has blown away thy meal?' Then he said, 'I believe the South Wind.' Then they went deeper into the forest, and came to a little hut, in which the old woman dwelt. After a while the old wife said to the peasant, 'Wrap thyself well up, for my sons will soon come.' 'Why should I wrap myself up?' 'The North Wind is very cold, and thou mightest freeze.'

Soon the sons appeared, and when the South Wind came his mother said, 'There is a complaint against thee.' Without answering, the South Wind gave the peasant a basket, furnished with all meats and drinks that one could desire. Who was merrier than the peasant? He went home and gave his wife the basket, and she convinced herself very soon of its excellence. One day a great lord rode by, and the woman bade her husband invite this lord to partake of something. did so, but the lord laughed at the invitation, and only sent his servants in, who were astonished greatly on finding so nobly spread a table in so poor a hut. they observed that the woman asked and obtained everything of the basket. They observed this, and some days after they came again, brought another pasket exactly alike, and exchanged it for that of the peasant. When next day the woman asked everything from the basket, the poor man had again to smart for it, for she thought that the basket only served for a The man bestirred himself and went certain time. again to the Wind. When he came to the old woman, the mother of the Wind, he complained of his wife. The old one told him that he must wait for her son, and he would soon come. The South Wind appeared, and the peasant began to complain to him of his wife. Then said the Wind, 'Thou complainest to me, old man, that thou hast so bad a wife, I will help thee, and thy wife shall do nothing more to thee. Take this tub, and when thou art at home, and thy wife comes too near

thee, get behind the tub, and say, "Five out of the tub. beat my wife!" And when that is done say, "Five back into the tub!"' The peasant went home, and said, 'Wife, instead of the basket, thou hast a tub.' His wife lost her temper, and said, 'What shall I do with thy tub? Why hast thou brought no meal?' With these words she seized the baking-fork. But he quickly ran behind the tub, and cried, 'Five out of the tub, beat my wife!' Instantly five fellows sprang out of the tub and did their duty. When the peasant thought she had had enough, he cried, 'Five back into the tub!' Then they left off, and crept into the tub. From that time forward the wife became mild and gentle. The peasant had now time to think about his basket. He suspected that his guests had tricked him out of it, and took counsel with his wife how they should get the basket back again. The wife said, 'As thou hast now a magical tub, thou canst match not one man only, but hundreds. Go to the great lord, and demand thy basket back.' The peasant went to the lord, and challenged him to a duel. The lord laughed at his folly, and replied, 'Good! I will meet thee to-morrow on the open field.'

Next day the peasant took his tub under his arm and went into the field, where he waited for the lord, who presently appeared in the company of his servants. Coming up to him, the lord bade his servants give the peasant a sound thrashing. The peasant saw that he was taken at a disadvantage, but, trusting in his tub,

he cried, 'Give me my basket, or it will be the worse for you.' Then they fell upon him, but the peasant cried, 'Five out of the tub upon every man of them!' Instantly five fellows sprang upon each of them, and began to beat them unmercifully. Then cried the lord out loudly, 'Dear peasant, make them leave off!' Then the peasant gave command, 'Back, fellows, all of ye, into the tub!' Then they left off, and crept into the tub. The lord immediately bade his servants fetch the basket and give it up. It was done upon the spot. The peasant took his basket, went home, and lived thereafter with his wife in perfect peace.

THE FISHER'S SON.

ONCE there was a poor fisher, who was to bring the queen fishes for her birthday. He sat the whole day on the river-bank and fished, but caught nothing. In despair he went into the forest, and was about to hang himself, when a hunter came to meet him. It was the devil, but the fisher knew him not. The hunter asked him why he was so sad. The fisher answered, 'To-day I have to bring the queen a lot of fish, but have not taken one, and, besides, am so poor, that I cannot live.' Said the hunter, 'If in twelve years' time thou bringest me what is now in thy hut without thy knowing it, thou shalt find at home a quantity of money and of fishes.'

'Perhaps it is a cock on the dunghill that I know not of,' thought the fisher to himself, and agreed. Coming home, he saw that his wife had a baby boy, and that in his room were a lot of coins and fishes. Now he knew that the hunter had meant his child, and he was very distressed; but as the boy grew up, he became still more anxious. There were yet three days to the twelfth birthday of the fisher's son, when he went to the clergyman, told his story, and asked for

advice. The clergyman gave the fisher a prayer, and said, 'This prayer thy son must pray unceasingly for three days.' This he did, and by night also the father watched over his son to prevent him from sleeping.

On the third day the fisher's wife came running, and cried, wringing her hands, 'Fire! fire!' The house was burning. The fisher ran quickly to put it out, and meanwhile the boy fell asleep. Then the devil came, took him, carried him into the air, and flew far away. When the boy awoke, he cried, 'Jesus, Maria, and Joseph!' Then the devil let go of him, and he fell to the ground. He now found himself on a desert plain. Far and wide no house nor tree was to be seen, nothing but heaven and earth. Going further on, he came to a beautiful castle, before which two stone lionesses stood. He went in, passed through all the rooms, and saw no one. On his return a black woman met him, whom he begged for a night's lodging, and something to eat and drink. She said, 'I will give it thee, if thou wilt release me, for I am an enchanted princess.' The fisher's son thought, 'If I can do this, gladly will I.' Then said the black woman, 'Easily canst thou set me free; but In the night a giant will come, he will play with thee, and let something fall, which under no condition must thou take up.' With these words the woman departed. In the night the door of the room opened, and a giant came in. To the question of the fisher's son what he wanted, said the giant, 'I am come to amuse

myself. 'And I tool said the fisher's som. So they played at cards. Then the giant let a card fall, and and to the fisher's som, 'Pick it my'. But he said excendelly, 'Thou has much longer some and fingers than I, and canst pick it my thyself.' The giant said nothing, but took out a pair of thee. And while they played, he let one fall, and bade the fisher's som pick it up; but he answered as before, whereupon the giant became angry, seized the fisher's son, pilled off his head, hands, and feet, making a sad mess of him.

Then it struck twelve, the giant was gone, and the fisher's son was again living and unhurt. In the morning the woman came to him, now a fourth part white, thanked him, and exhorted him to persevere. In the night came two giants, with whom he played at cards and dice, and again refused to pick up those that fell. The two giants took him, tormented him still more, and tore him to pieces. Then it struck twelve, the pair of giants were gone, and the fisher's son alive again and unhurt. In the morning the woman came, half white, half black, thanked him, and bade him still to persevere. The third night came three giants, who repeated the same thing with him, and at last tore him into a thousand pieces. But as it struck twelve they were all gone, and the fisher's son was safe and sound. Now came the princess and thanked him kindly.

Soon they fell in love with one another, and were married. And by and by the fisher's son became king.

Then one day he said to his queen, 'I should like to see my old home again.' 'Go, then,' said she, 'but thou must not tell a soul that thou hast the most beautiful wife under the sun.'

So he journeyed to his old home. He became drunk, and said he had the fairest wife under the sun. Immediately appeared his wife, took off his royal dress, and he was again the old fisher's son. Then said his father, 'Bestir thyself, and journey quickly after thy wife.' The fisher's son went forth; he came to a little hut, from which an old wife came out. The fisher's son said to her, 'I pray thee tell me where the queen dwells?' 'I cannot tell you,' said the old wife; 'but if you will wait till my husband, the Moon, comes home, he will know.' Presently the Moon came, and the fisher's son asked him after the dwelling of the queen. The other replied, 'I know it not, but the Sun will know.' The fisher's son went on and came to a hut, in which the Sun dwelt. Here he had to wait upon her; and when he came to the house, and the fisher's son asked her, she said, 'I know not, but the Wind will know.' The Wind said, 'I know not, but here is a box for thee, and there where the lid springs up is the queen.' The fisher's son returned thanks, and coming out of the house he was raised by the Wind into the air, and flew away without noticing it. He was carried by the Wind to a great castle, where the lid of the box came suddenly He went in, but half-way the queen came to meet him, recognising him immediately; but meanwhile she had wedded another. She mid him if his ni said, 'I give to-day a great dinner, no which I have a vited many guests; act as if thom went a sample pastinen everything will come right.' The fishers an attended the dinner. Then everybody had to mid story, including the queen. She said, 'Once I had a new one made: both the old one was recovered. Which shall I keep the till or the new?' And all with one voice said, 'The clid the old!' 'Good,' said she; 'here sits my fame consern.' And all could not but recognise him, and thenceforward the pair lived together till their death.

THE JUDAS SHE-DEVIL.

ONCE there lived a knight with his lady many years in quiet affection and peaceful employments. They had but one wish, and that was to leave an heir behind them. Often the knight sat in the forest, which surrounded his castle, upon a great stone, and wept bitter tears, so that every one in the neighbourhood called him the knight of the grievous countenance.

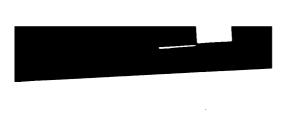
When once, according to his custom, he appeared at the stone, a dwarf came up and announced to him that his lady would bear a son, who would weep day and night; but the knight must promise his weeping son a maiden to wife who should be born of nine mothers. The dwarf vanished, and the knight was highly delighted at the communication. Scarce had he heard the dwarf's last words when he hastened home to tell the joyous news to his wife. But when he came to the castle, his servant brought the new-born child to meet him. Full of joy at his unexpected luck, he took the child in his arms and kissed it. Then the child began to cry, and would not leave off. This grieved the knight, and he was about to hurry away and ask the dwarf's advice,

when he recollected the latter's last word. He spoke this in jest in the ear of the weeping child, and lo! the little one ceased to weep.

Both father and mother were delighted with the young Jarostay—so they called him,—and he grew up into a vigorous youth, and was known far and wide as champion in the games. From distant lands came young knights, who vied with one another for the friendship of the bold Jarostay.

One day, after a hunt, he came to his father and begged him now to fulfil his promise, and give him to wife the maiden who was the daughter of nine mothers. The father seemed in despair, and when the son named the time and the place that his father had comforted him, the father was forced to tell him his adventure with the dwarf.

From this hour Jarostay became thoughtful and morose. He withdrew from the ordinary amusements, and thought only of his bride. The old knight was very distressed at this, and caused all the magicians and witches to be summoned. He promised great rewards to any one who knew anything about the damsel sought for. But no one could give him any other answer than, 'There is such a maiden, but where, we know not.' Then Jarostay resolved himself to seek for her. He took leave of his parents, and went into the wide world. Many years he wandered in all directions in vain. One day he came into a great forest, out of which he could not find his way. Weary, he lay down under a tree and





"The third sister sat upon a footstool and had around her brow a wreath of willow, and eye glasses like small waggon-wheels." - Poge 255-

slept. On awaking, he found himself in a room, which was inhabited by an old wife. She asked him how he had come into the forest, and what he was seeking there. Jarostay now told her the whole course of his life, and the cause of his journey. She comforted him, and promised to take him to her sister, who was a mighty witch, and would certainly give information. However, neither did the sister know where the maiden was to be found, and the old wife took Jarostay to her third sister. She dwelt in a subterranean cavern, the entrance to which was watched by wild beasts. the witches hummed an incantation, and immediately the monsters reverently retired. The door opened of itself, and they went in. The third sister sat upon a footstool, and had around her brow a wreath of willow, and eyeglasses like small wagon-wheels. She had no teeth. The three witch-sisters greeted one another, and the third was now asked for information about the maiden. 'Thou must,' said she, 'wander yet 300 miles to the south, and there thou wilt come into a forest, in which there is a castle with a small tower. There lies the bride you seek in a small cradle, and the nine mothers who have given birth to the maiden sleep about the cradle. Take the child from the cradle, and hasten as quickly as possible from the spot. But the cradle thou must leave behind, and the maiden thou must not kiss before thou hast got home.' Jarostay thanked her, and promised to carry out everything faithfully. Then he took leave of the three sisters, and wandered on in high

spirits, each day bringing him nearer to his goal. At last he found the castle pointed out, and he glided into the tower. There, in a splendid chamber, he saw his bride. She was in a golden cradle, and the nine mothers slept round about. With mixed joy and fear he approached and seized the cradle, which was only a span long. Then he hastened away, and was on the point of passing over the boundary, when he saw a knight approaching. In his confusion he quickly kissed the child. He was about to hasten his steps, but the child suddenly was changed into a maiden, and the cradle became a hundred times heavier to him. The knight snatched the beloved burden from him, and, with difficulty, Jarostay himself escaped.

In deep distress he went back to the witch, and told her what had happened. But she reminded him of her warning. After long entreaties, she at last gave him a salve which could turn him into a bird. Once more she enjoined caution upon him, and added, 'The father of thy bride possesses a black horse, who sees and knows everything that goes on in the house. If danger threatens, the horse immediately gives his master notice of all that happens. But inquire of thy bride where her father obtained the horse, for only by means of such a horse can thy flight succeed.'

Jarostay now changed himself into a canary-bird, and flew straight to the castle where his bride was. He allowed her to take him and shut him up in a cage. So fond did the princess become of the bird, that she

once expressed the wish that the bird might be changed into a man, and then she would marry him. Hearing this, the bird changed itself into a youth, and stood before the astonished maiden. She recognised him as her deliverer, who had awakened her out of sleep. Jarostay now told her how much he was troubled on her behalf, and the maiden agreed to flee with him. But first she would ask her father whence he had the black horse. Jarostay again turned himself into a canary-bird, and the princess had her father summoned, and told him Compassionately he sought to calm his she felt ill. daughter, and she tried to lead the conversation to the Having praised it for its beauty and faithblack horse. fulness, she asked where he had bought it. After long delay he said, 'In my youth I had to serve three years with the Judas she-devil, and for payment she gave me the beautiful creature that now serves as guardian of my property.'

The bird had listened to this, and flying back to the witch, told her all. She showed the youth the way to hell, where the Judas she-devil dwelt. She gave him also three of her hairs, saying, 'If thou needest help, pull one of these hairs asunder; then I will come and help thee.'

Jarostay now made his pilgrimage to hell, and he found right enough the opening in a great rock which the witch had mentioned. He went in, and soon was aware of the Judas she-devil. She asked him what he wanted, and he replied, 'I would take service with thee, if thou wilt.' She gladly engaged him, and the very

first day gave him twelve horses to watch. If he lost one of them, he was to die. Jarostay drove the horses to a pasture there was in hell. Towards noon a mighty sleep came upon him, and he lay down. When he awoke his herd was gone, and all his seeking was in vain. Then he recollected the three hairs which he had obtained from the witch. He pulled one of them apart, and immediately the witch stood by him. told her of his misadventure. 'Go back into the stable.' said she, 'and there thou wilt find twelve horses in the form of sheep. But there will be thirteen sheep in the stable, so pick out the sheep which has a cross on its back. This sheep thou must cut into four parts, for it is none other than the Judas-devil. And so soon as thou hast slain that sheep, the twelve horses will stand before thee.' The witch vanished, and Jarostay found everything as she had said. He took the sheep pointed out. and hewed it into four parts, and immediately the twelve horses stood before him.

On the first day of his second year of service the same thing occurred. A sleep again fell upon Jarostay, and when he awoke the horses were gone. So he pulled the second hair apart, and the witch appeared, and said, 'Go into the stable, and there, instead of the twelve horses, thou wilt find thirteen geese. The thirteenth, marked with a black cross, thou must take and slay, because in this goose is the Judas-devil.' Jarostay did as he was bidden, and the twelve horses stood again in the stall.

In the course of the second year the Judas-devil thought of means of preventing Jarostay from taking the spell off the horses, for she desired his death. On the first day of the third year the horses had again vanished from the pasture. He now took the third and last hair, and summoned the witch, who said, 'Go into the kitchen, and there in the fire on the hearth thou wilt see a stool, on which the Judas-devil usually sits. Under the stool is a black hen. This hen thou must slay. But do not think that the person who sits on the stool is the Judas-devil, for thou wouldst be mistaken, and lose thy life.'

Jarostay betook himself to the kitchen. tempted to kill the creature which sat on the stool, and was quite like the Judas-devil, seeming to urge him with a grinning smile to the deed, as his eyes fell upon the black hen. Mindful of the directions, he seized the hen, and cut her in pieces. Immediately the strange form, together with the stool, vanished. Wishing now to see to his horses, he went to the stable, and there, to his astonishment, met the Judas-devil, who said to him, 'Dear Jarostay, thou hast served me faithfully for two years and a day, and hast never lost a horse. In gratitude I will remit the third year, and thou mayest choose thy reward.' Jarostay begged for one of the horses he had kept. The she-devil bethought her a while, and then agreed. 'Thou mayest,' said she, 'pick out the finest horse.' Then he heard a voice which whispered in his ear, 'Take the worst horse.'

Jarostay followed the advice of the invisible witch, and the she-devil was terrified at the demand and hesitated. At last she was obliged to give him the worst horse.

He led it to the upper world, and here the horse was one of the firest he had ever seen. Then he rode to his counsellor, and she encouraged him to ride straight to the castle where his bride dwelt. In twelve days he arrived. He rode into the court, and the horse which served as guardian to the father of his bride came up and recognised the other, for it had belonged to the same herd. In his joy he forgot to neigh, so the lord knew nothing of the arrival of the second horse.

Jarostay now hastened into the tower to his bride, and great was the joy at meeting again. The pair mounted the horse, and rode thence. But when the horse of the bride's father observed this, he began to neigh, and the father hastened up. No sooner did he find the turret empty than he leaped upon his hell-horse. and set out in pursuit of the fugitives. Soon they had passed the bounds of the park, where a broad ditch hindered the horse's flight, and the father would have caught them up had not the ditch, through the aid of the ever-helpful witch, vanished. But immediately he set out after them again, and so spurred his horse that it fell in leaping, and both met their death in the ditch. When the two fugitives saw this they were very distressed. As deliverance was not to be thought of, they rode to the castle of Jarostay's father, and in a few days arrived prosperously at their destination.

The old knight and his lady were beside themselves with joy when they saw the son, long believed dead, return with his bride. A splendid wedding was now prepared, and Jarostay wished that the three sisters might take part in it, for he owed all his good fortune to them. In half an hour three women actually came into the hall who were unknown to those present. All marvelled at their beauty and rich dresses. They introduced themselves to Jarostay, and congratulated him and his bride. But when the train entered the brightly-lighted chapel, the three women suddenly vanished, and were never seen again.

After the betrothal the entertainments began at the castle. During this time Jarostay went down into the courtyard, and noticing his beloved horse, there began to stroke it. Then the horse suddenly began to speak, and begged his master to cut off his head. This he refused to do, and it was only after many prayers that he seized his sword; and as he severed the head from the trunk, there flew out a white dove, which rose with joyous flight to heaven. Thenceforward Jarostay enjoyed in peace and content his long-desired happiness.

THE THREE WHITE DOVES.

ONCE there was a mother, who had a brave son named. Hansel. When he was nineteen years old, he went into the wide world to find a situation. One evening he found himself lost in the midst of a vast forest. Suddenly Hansel saw a light in the distance, and went up to it immediately. He found an old ruinous hut, inhabited by an old and hideous man.

As Hansel went in the old man harshly asked him what he wanted. 'I know not myself what I should want here,' answered Hansel, as he noticed the poor furniture of the hut, 'for I have gone out into the world to make my fortune, and I should like to serve with a well-to-do man, if such an one would take me.' 'Well, if you will remain with me,' said the man, 'you will not have much to do, but for a year and three days you must tarry with me, else you will fare ill.' Hansel bethought himself a while, then agreed and remained. The year passed by, and on the third day the old man said to Hansel, 'The time agreed upon is up, and as you have served me so faithfully, take as your well-deserved reward as much gold as you can carry,

and this white dove, which I present you with under the following conditions:—

'If you come to your home, build a castle and pull out three feathers from the dove; then will it be transformed into a blooming maiden, who shall become your wife. But hide the three feathers as much as possible, for if they once come into the possession of your wife again, a mischief will befall you.'

Hansel thanked the good old man, and set out for There he used his gold to build a castle, which he called Dovecastle. When the splendid building was ready, he plucked three feathers from the dove, and she was immediately changed into a beautiful maiden, with whom he lived three years in peace and content. After this Hans went out hunting one day, and his mother sat at home with the young woman. 'One may go through the whole world,' said Hansel's mother, 'and find no woman so beautiful as thou art.' 'Oh, I should be much more beautiful if I had the feathers which my husband has hidden,' said the young woman sadly. The mother was very curious, and knowing the place where Hansel had hidden the feathers, she went quickly, fetched them, and handed them over to the young She instantly stuck the feathers in her body, and became again a dove with black wings. Then she sat at an open window, and awaited the return of her husband. When he came in she thanked him for all his goodness, and flew away.

Hansel was inconsolable at his loss, but what was

THE THREE WHITE DOVES.

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done could not be undone, and he had to resign himself to his fate. He now resolved to hunt up the hideous old man in the forest, and beg his help. But the old man could give him no more help, except by sending him to his brother, who lived a monstrous long way from the hut, and had all birds and beasts under his power. bade a dwarf conduct Hansel to his brother, the ruler of ail birds and beasts. The dwarf ran before Hansel like one possessed, and in a short time the two were at the end of their journey. The ruler of all birds and beasts was still more hideous than his brother, and Hansel shrank back in horror as he looked upon him. 'Fear not, my son, but tell me thy business which brings thee hither.' 'Lord,' said Hans, 'thy brother sends thee his loyal greeting, and prays thee to tell me where I am to seek for the three enchanted doves, which every hundred years are wont to bathe in his pool' 'I know not myself, but I will ask the birds and beasts which are under my authority.'

He then took a little pipe, sounded upon it a shrill call, and in a moment the whole place was astir with beasts, which cried as with one mouth, 'What are our ruler's commands?' The magician now asked the beasts whether they did not know, or at least had not seen, the doves which were wont to bathe every hundred years in the pool of his youngest brother. All were silent, not a beast had an answer to the question. 'Now thou seest,' said the magician, 'that none of my subjects knows whither these doves are gone, and there-

fore I cannot satisfy thee; but I will give thee some advice that will certainly be to thy advantage. Go to my brother, the ruler of all witches, dwarfs, giants, and kobolds, who will certainly be able to give thee advice. With these words the magician bade a two-headed gigantic eagle take Hansel on his back, and carry him to his brother, the ruler of all kobolds. The giant eagle fulfilled the charge, and in the evening Hansel was in the presence of the ruler of kobolds. He, the eldest of the three brothers, was a fine man of gigantic stature; his head, covered with long fair hair, was adorned with a wreath of oak leaves; in his powerful right hand he held an uprooted fir-tree.

Hansel felt confidence in this giant at once, and put his business before him. The giant struck the earth with the tree so that it trembled, and immediately the whole place swarmed with black monsters, the subjects of the giant. All cried with voices of thunder, 'What are our ruler's commands?' The giant asked his devils whether they had seen anywhere the doves which were wont to bathe in the pool of his youngest brother. All the monsters were silent. The giant looked round and missed a kobold. 'Where is the Limper?' he asked. 'Here am I,' said the Limper, out of breath with quick running to get there in time.

The giant now asked him also whether he had not seen the doves. 'I have chased them over a great sea,' he replied; 'but I could not catch them, because the three doves have a golden palace in the midst of the

sea in which they dwell.' 'Good,' said the giant, 'bear this man to the palace of the three doves;' and turning to Hansel he whispered, 'If the kobold asks thee how swiftly he shall fly with thee, say, Swift as the pace of a spirit.'

The Limper took Hansel on his back, and away they went through the air.

They flew for two days, and had only seven miles further to go. Already they could see the shining roof of the palace afar off. Then the kobold suddenly asked Hansel, 'Seest thou the roof?' 'No,' answered the latter, closing his eyes, for he had been ordered to answer No to every question of the kobold's, otherwise the kobold would let him fall.

Now they came within three miles of the palace, and the kobold asked again, 'Seest thou the palace?' And again Hansel said, 'No.' At last they were above the roof, and again the kobold asked whether he saw the roof, and again he denied that he did. 'Thou must be blind, churl,' growled the monster, and bearing Hansel into the palace he set him on a table, at which the three princesses were partaking of a meal. These were doves in the morning and evening, but during the rest of the day they could assume the human form. The three enchanted maidens were terrified at the unexpected visit, but his wife recognised him immediately. She greeted him, and said, 'Thou comest in good time to set me free.'

Hansel remained some time with them.

In the palace there were twelve rooms in which he could pass his time, only into the thirteenth he dared not go; this was strictly forbidden him.

But Hansel did not long heed this command. One day when the princesses were not at home, he took the key and went into the thirteenth room. He found it almost entirely empty; only in the middle was a table, on which three glasses full of water stood. Over the table hung a gigantic dragon, whose three hands were nailed to the roof of the room. The dragon still lived, and as he caught sight of Hansel he begged him to hand him a glass of water, promising to save his life in return. Having drunk it, one great nail fell down, and the monster had one hand free. He now begged for the second glass of water, in return for which he promised again to save his life. Hansel readily gave it, and the dragon had then two hands free. 'Now give me the third glass,' he roared to Hansel; 'thou must, whether thou wilt or not.' In terror Hansel handed him the third glass of water.

The dragon was now quite free, and instantly flew to the sea, where he hunted the three doves about till he had caught one. It was Hansel's wife. When the other two doves came home, they reproached Hansel violently, saying, 'We had rejoiced in the prospect of being free at last, and now thou hast made our lot worse, so that to the last day we must remain under a spell.'

Hansel himself was distressed at the loss of his wife. But the three princesses had three brothers, who had

been changed by sorcery into horses. The youngest was in a remote stable of the palace, the other in the dragon's stable, and the eldest with the Judas she-devil One day Hansel came by accident into the stable of the youngest horse, and as he heard that the horse could speak, he told him of his trouble. said, 'Just now the dragon is not at home, so take the opportunity and steal the dove from him. Then get on my back, and I will carry thee through the air.' This was done. When the dragon came home, his favourite dove had vanished. He soon guessed what was likely to have happened during his absence, and quickly mounting on a horse he pursued the robber, and soon caught him up. 'Wretch,' he cried to Hansel, 'how durst thou steal my dove! I ought to tear thee in pieces, but I will remain true to my word, and spare thy life for this once.'

Hans was again inconsolable. After a time the horse again said to Hansel, 'As the dragon is away from home again, perhaps we can steal the dove from him this time.' When the dragon came home, he asked the horse whither the bird had flown, and the horse said, 'The dove is stolen, and you will hardly get her back again, for she must have got a long start of you.'

He quickly mounted the horse and pursued swift as the wind. Soon he caught up Hansel, and for the second time spared his life because of the second glass of water. But as Hans had stolen the dove for the third time, and again had been caught by the dragon, the dragon rent him to pieces. But the horse fitted the pieces of unhappy Hansel together, smearing them with a salve, and Hansel was again restored. Then said the horse to him, 'If thou wilt follow my advice, go to the Judas she-devil, and serve her three days as her servant. As reward for thy services demand the worst horse, for that is my brother, who is dreadfully tormented by the Judas she-devil. He will then do thee good service at thy request.' Hansel took the advice, and set out for the abode of the Judas she-devil. On the way he saw a huge fly in a spider's web, and being very compassionate, he set it free. The fly said, 'If at any time thou art in great distress, think of me, and I will help thee.'

He went on his way, and soon saw at some distance a fox which had fallen into a pit. He set the fox at liberty, and received from him the like promise, in case he should be in distress. Soon after Hans came to a sea, over which he could not pass. As he approached the water, he saw a huge crab lying on his back in the sand. Hans turned him over, and in thankfulness for the service the crab called all the crabs together, and bade them build a bridge. And so Hans got over the sea.

The Judas she-devil saw him from afar, and came to meet him, grinning a welcome, and asking whether he would take service with her. Hansel consented, and the Judas she-devil said to him, 'The service only lasts three days, and thou wilt have nothing to do but pasture

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the horses; but if thou losest a horse from the herd, I shall cut off thy head and hang it here on the stake. Eleven heads are already displayed on the stakes, and the twelfth only waits for thee.' Hans could say nothing in reply, for her hideous appearance and her threats made him tongue-tied. The Judas she-devil bade Hansel follow her. She gave him food, and a large piece of bread besides to take to the pasture. Hansel drove forth the horses, and when he came to the pasture felt great hunger. He now saw that he must eat the piece of bread, although the lean horse had forbidden him to Scarce had he eaten the bread, than he was overcome by sleep. On awaking, the horses were gone. He cried and looked in every direction, but it was of no use, the horses were not to be found. He was about to return home, when he thought of the fly struggling in the spider's web, and that he should soon be in a like position. No sooner did he think of the fly than it came flying up, also the horses galloped up to his side. Hansel was beside himself for joy, paid his thanks, and drove the horses home. The Judas she-devil was waiting for him, and when she found the number of the horses complete, she growled with rage. Taking a thick knotted stick she beat Hansel and the whole herd, but most of all the lean horse, till strips of flesh hung down from his body. Then she took a salve, anointed the sore places, and instantly the horse was healed.

On the next day Hansel drove the horses forth, and a took a piece of bread for the journey. But this

time he took the bread, crumbled it, and cast it into the sand round about. Yet soon hunger compelled him to pick up the morsels and eat them, mixed with sand. Again he slept, and awaking, again the horses had vanished. Again he cried, and ran about like one possessed, but the horses were not to be found. In his despair he thought of the fox. The latter came up, and drove back the horses to their former pasture. Again Hansel drove them home, and when the Judas she-devil saw that not a horse was missing, she was still more wrathful than before, and the horses and Hansel got still more hard blows.

The third morning now came, and again Hansel drove the herd forth. Again the Judas she-devil gave him bread, and strictly bade him to eat the whole piece. But Hansel threw it away again; still he fared no better than before, and he had to hunt for it that he might appease his extraordinary hunger. The same effect followed as before, and Hansel fell asleep. The horses now no longer knew where to hide, so as not to be discovered, so they leaped into the sea. When Hansel presently awoke, and found that the horses were gone, he had still time to look for them. But all his search was in vain. 'Thrice,' said he, 'have animals helped me in my need, who will help me now? The fly and the fox found the horses for me, the crab helped me over the sea, and now I have no one to depend upon.' All at once the sea stirred, and all the horses came out of it, howling lamentably. For, when Hansel recalled

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THE THREE WHITE DOVES.

the crab to mind, the crab called all his fellows together, and bade them pinch the horses till they left the seal Jeyensly Hansel drove them home. He had new served his time, and demanded of the Judas she-devil the lean horse for his reward.

'Why the lean horse?' asked the Judas she-devil. 'Thou hast served me well and faithfully, and I will reward thee better by giving thee the finest horse.' But Hansel insisted upon having the lean horse, and the she-devil had to grant his prayer. Still, desiring to ruin him, she gave him another horse besides, which he was to ride, and so spare the lean horse. So Hansel mounted the other horse. But again the wicked plan of the witch was to be frustrated, for before they came to the door of the witch's palace, the lean horse quictly teld him to get down from the proud horse, and mount himself, otherwise it would befall him amiss. Quickly Hansel jumped down and mounted the lean herse. -Wretch, the devil hath warned thee, marmured the great horse, and disappeared. Had Hansel kept his sen the horse would have risen into the air under the gazeway, and thus have crushed Hansel's head.

He now rode in peace to the palace of the three One day the lean horse said to Harsel, 'As the one is sleeping, we will steal his doves from Harsel took them, and quickly mounted the which became so gigantic that it could see the palace. When the dragon awoke, which became in the stable who had stolen the

dove. Said the horse, 'Hansel has done it again, and it is of no use to think of getting her back again, because Hansel rides the witch's horse.' The dragon did not attend to these words, but mounted the horse and pursued the fugitives. Soon he caught up Hansel, and was going as before to take the dove from him, but this time he did not succeed. Scarce had he reached forth his hand, than the witch's horse gave him so violent a kick that the dragon was stunned, and fell from the saddle. Quickly Hansel slew the stunned dragon, and thus the three princesses and the prince also were delivered.

Thus Hansel at last recovered his wife, and went home with her.

THE MAIDEN ON THE CRYSTAL MOUNTAIN.

There was a poor woman who had a son manual Hams. One day he were more the forest, and after a while came to a point. As he approached the came three terminal women sprang out of the water three terminal women sprang out of the water three temperatures thanged into ducks, and fiew away. The mainle one of the three espending parasest Hams, who were home and told his matter when he had seen. She said, 'Go into the forest again, and build there a him near the pool.' This was done. At the time of the new moon he dillegantly scarried maximing and evening the banks of the pool.

One evening as he was thus searching, he saw three garments lying on the bank. Quickly he took the middle one, ran with it into his hut, and put it in a these. No scener had he done this than there was a knock at the door. A voice cried, 'I pray you let me in: I have lost my garment.' Hans sprang up quickly, exened the door and got behind it. The maiden came in, and swiftly threw around her Hans' cloak, which he

had left on the bed. Then she begged Hans to give her her shift. This he would not do, but went to fetch He had not gone half-way before it his mother. occurred to him that he had not locked the chest where the shift lay. Quickly he returned, but on getting to the hut, both door and chest were open, and the maiden was gone. On the table lay a billet inscribed with the following in golden letters: 'My home is on the Crystal Mountain.' Immediately Hans set out to seek the Crystal Mountain. If he came into a town he cried aloud, 'Know ye not where is the Crystal Mountain?' But no one could inform him. One day he came to a great house, and from a gable window a gentleman was looking down. Said Hans, 'Know ye not where is the Crystal Mountain?' 'I know not, but perhaps one of my servants knows,' answered the gentleman. Then he drew out a silver pipe, and gave a loud whistle. Then came bears, wolves, and all kinds of beasts, and last of all limped an old hare on three feet. 'Know'st thou where is the Crystal Mountain?' asked his lord. 'Of course I know it,' said the 'Then take this man thither,' said his lord. Hans set out with the hare. They came into a great forest, and the hare said, 'Go straight on, and thou wilt find the mountain.' At these words he sprang up and vanished.

Hans had now to wander alone. After some time he saw a dead horse lying on the road. By the horse was a bear, a wolf, a raven, and an ant. These animals were striving for the corpse. As Hans came nearer, the raven said. 'Dear Hans, divide the horse among us.'

Hans immediately set to work. First he cut off the horse's head, and cast it before the ant, saying, 'Thou likest to creep about in hollows, take the head.' Thereupon he opened the corpse, and gave the entrails to the raven, the bones to the wolf, and the flesh to the The animals were contented with the division. Then the bear and the wolf each of them gave to Hans a hair, the ant a foot, and the raven a feather. The animals said, 'If thou art in need, lay the gift under thy tongue, and thou mayest then be changed into the animal from which the gift proceeds.' They then departed. But Hans went forward on the road. Having advanced some distance, he noticed afar off a flashing and sparkling. It was the Crystal Mountain. Merrily Hans went to the foot of the mountain. On its summit stood a fine castle. tried to ascend the mountain, but it was in vain; he kept gliding backwards, for the mountain was as smooth as a mirror. He now changed himself into a bear, and dug with his paws steps in the mountain. But the sharp splinters of glass wounded him, and soon he could no longer continue the work. Then Hans changed himself into a wolf, that he might hold fast with his teeth. But neither did this So he changed himself into a raven, and flew up the mountain. When he was at the top he saw the maiden he knew standing by an open window. Swiftly he flew in at the window. Said the maiden, 'My mother is a witch. Torment her in every possible way till she gives permission for thee to marry me.' Saying this, she went out of the room. Hans changed himself into an ant, and crept under the bed in which the old woman slept. became dark the witch came and lay down. when she had fallen asleep Hans crept into the bed, and nipped and bit the witch all over. So three nights passed. But when the third day came the witch caught him just as he was creeping out of bed. 'I know thou art no ordinary ant,' said she, and changed him into a man. 'What wilt thou?' she further said. 'I would marry thy second daughter,' said Hans. 'I will give her to thee, but thou must earn the maiden all the same,' said the witch. 'First thou must drink up the contents of an egg without making a hole through it.' She gave him an egg, and went. Hans turned himself into an ant, bit a small opening in the egg-shell, and drank up the contents. He then stopped up the opening with chalk, changed himself into a man, and took the empty egg to the old witch. 'Good,' said she. 'A quarter of an hour's distance from here there is a great, great forest. In three days thou must cut it down, hew the stems in pieces, and then split them up.'

Hans went away and looked over the forest. He was so tired of looking that he lay down under a tree

and fell asleep. Awaking, he sprang up, rubbed his eyes, looked around, but there was no forest to see. In its stead there lay some thousands of cords of small wood.

Then cried the voice of his bride, 'While thou didst sleep I did the work. I will help thee also with the third task.'

Hans went now to the witch and told her the work was done. 'Good,' said she, 'to-morrow carry the wood to one heap. Then I will come out and kindle When the wood is all aflame, then thou must leap into the midst of the fire. If thou dost not, thou canst not marry my daughter.' Sadly Hans went to bed. The next day he went to the place where the wood was. Diligently he piled up the pieces. Scarce had he finished when the witch came up and kindled the wood. As the pile burned and burned, Hans took a run, intending to leap into the fire, but as soon as he came near to the flames he stopped. This he did several times. Then suddenly he heard the voice of his bride crying, 'Spring! spring!' Hans gathered himself together and leaped into the midst of the flames. The glowing coals fell apart, and Hans was not even singed.

Where a coal fell arose a house, and so there sprang up a great and fair city.

In the midst of it, where the pile of wood had stood, there was a great and fine castle. It was built of carbuncles. At the gate stood Hans' bride. Hans now married her, and became lord of the castle and king of the city.

He took his poor mother home with him, and tended her in her old age.

Happy Hans! who happier? If he is not dead, he is certainly living to this day.

HOW HANS FINDS HIS WIFE.

ONCE upon a time Hans wandered forth into the world to find good men. He came into a great forest, and lay down weary under an oak-tree, and soon fell asleep. As he awoke, the sun appeared; he jumped up, made his breakfast out of his bread-bag, and then went deeper into the wood; but there was no end of it, and his heart was cast down. The third night, as he went round the forest, he suddenly observed a light. Long was the way before he could reach it, but at last he came to his goal. Then he saw a small hut. Hans went in, but the owner was away; so he sat down on a moss-bank before the hut. Soon an old man appeared, and asked Hans what he wanted. 'Better men I am seeking,' he replied, 'better than those whom I knew.' 'Better men thou wilt hardly find, for they are all alike; but if thou wilt remain with me, thou wilt find a good man,' said the dweller in the hut, and leading Hans into his hut, set some bread and cheese before him. Hans regaled himself, and told the man of the hut the reason of his leaving home. Next day, after Hans had breakfasted, the hermit went away, first giving Hans

fishing-tackle, and showing him the way to the lake, where he was to fish. Joyously he set out, and soon had reached his destination. It was a lake clear as a mirror, where he saw the most beautiful fishes. was sorry for such beautiful fishes, so he merely looked at them, and rejoiced that for once he had found an honest man. As he sat thinking thus, he suddenly heard a voice saying, 'Let be, thou wilt yet find good men, and it will go well with thee, because thou hast taken none of us.' Looking up, he saw that the most beautiful fish swam away from him into the midst of the Soon after Hans went home, and found the hermit getting ready a supper. Hans told him of his adventure. The old man listened attentively, and said, 'Dear Hans, what has happened to thee to-day is very strange; go to-morrow again, and look to it that thou learnest more.' Next day Hans took his tackle, and again went to the lake; but this time no single fish was to be seen. As he was about to return, he saw a band of the fairest maidens, each of whom was clothed only in an apron. Shocked at the sight, he hastened to the old man's hut, and told him of it. At the same time he begged the old man for one of the maidens in marriage.

The old man laughed at this desire, but advised Hans, if the maidens bathed again, to take the apron of the maiden who pleased him best. Hans followed the advice, and went next day to the lake. He had not long to wait before the maidens appeared, took off their aprons, and sprang into the water. He gently stole up

to the apron which belonged to the maiden who pleased him best, seized it suddenly, and hastened thence. But no sooner did the maidens catch sight of their disturber, than all sprang out of the water and hastened thence, only that maiden whose apron he had following him. When she reached him, she fell on her knees, and begged him urgently to give her back the apron, promising to go with him wherever he would. But Hans was not to be deceived; so taking the maiden by the arm, he led her into the hut of the hermit. The old man blessed their union, and told Hans that he was to burn the apron, for if she got hold of it, she would run away. Hans, however, wanted to keep the apron, and hid it in a chest.

Years passed by, and one day Hans' wife was going to wash clothes. Looking about, she found her apron. Quickly she took off her clothes, tied the apron around her, and hastened away. When Hans came home, and saw not his wife, he sought everywhere, and could not find her. Then the thought came into his mind whether his wife had not found her apron and hastened away with it. Sadly he went to the chest, and convinced himself that the words of the old man had been actually fulfilled.

Next day Hans rose with the intention of seeking his wife everywhere. First he went to the hermit, to bewail his sad fate, and, at the same time, to ask his counsel. 'I thought so,' said the hermit, when Hans had told him all. 'You ought to have followed my advice, but now I cannot help you. Still, I know of one means. Not far

from me there lives a witch, and she is not on good terms with those who enchanted the maidens and hold them fast. Go to her, tell her your trouble, and beg her assistance.' Hans went to the witch, who was a hideous old hag. 'Good,' said the witch, when she had silently listened to Hans, ''tis well that thou hast come to me, otherwise thou wouldst have fared ill; but now listen attentively to what I shall tell thee. In three days there is a great race, to which all the princes of the neighbouring towns are invited. He who rides his horse up a ball-shaped crystal mountain will obtain the fairest maiden whom the old witch holds bound. wife is the fairest. To save her,' proceeded the old woman, 'take the horse that stands before the door, ride to the course, and there announce thyself as a competitor, for only such will be admitted to the contest. If thou becomest conqueror, and this I can certainly promise thee, thy task is not at an end, for thou must find her out among a thousand similar maidens. this task will be easy, if thou followest my advice. Give close heed when thou comest into the hall of the maidens, and choose her on whom, from the roof of the chamber, a spider descends.'

Heartily Hans thanked the witch for her advice, and at a swinging gallop he hastened to the course, full of the hope of meeting his beloved spouse.

There the nobles of all kingdoms were already assembled, and impatiently awaited the opening of the course, where they hoped to make their fortune. One after the other tried to ride up the crystal mountain, but none succeeded. Hans' turn now came. He did not long hesitate, but trusting the witch's horse, bounded at full gallop towards the goal, and reached it, to the astonishment of all. So to Hans, as the best rider, the prize was awarded.

And now, out of a thousand maidens, he had to choose his bride; and they were all alike. He recollected the witch's words, and paused; but as soon as he saw that a spider let itself down from the roof of the room on the head of a maiden, he chose her, and recognised in her his spouse. He led her to the hermit, that with him they might quietly live.

But soon the witch repented of having given Hans her choicest beauty. So she sent a messenger to take her again. When the messenger came to the heath over which Hans had to pass to get to the hermit's, his wife noticed him and said, 'See, yonder the witch sends a messenger; she would have us both, but she shall not succeed.' With these words she muttered something, and suddenly instead of two persons a dove was seen, holding a straw in her beak. As the messenger came up to the spot where Hans and his wife had stood and saw nothing that excited his attention, he turned round. The witch impatiently awaited the messenger. When at last she caught sight of him, she asked soon afterwards whether he had the pair. 'No, I have not once seen them,' answered the messenger. 'Stupid, hast seen nothing?' asked the witch. 'Nothing but a dove, with a straw in

her beak.' 'Ride forth again, and take all that thou findest.' And again the messenger set out.

Meanwhile Hans and his wife had got a good distance further, but in the middle of the heath they were overtaken by the messenger. This time also the woman knew of a spell which she had learned from the witch, and as she uttered it Hans was changed into horse-dung, and she herself into a crow. The messenger passed the crow, and, seeing nothing, rode back. The enraged witch sent him forth a third time, and he came up with the pair by the lake, where the hermit was wont to fish. When the woman again saw the messenger, she had recourse to the third and last spell, and changed Hans into a thistle, which stood in the middle of the lake, and herself into a goldfinch, which settled on the thistle, and began to pipe and sing lustily. When the messenger saw and heard this, he was going to seize the finch, but he did not succeed, because the lake was too deep, and Hans was too far from the messenger. The latter returned at full gallop, in order to fetch a boat and crew; but before they came up Hans with his spouse was already safe, for they had come into the territory of the witch who had given Hans the horse. When the messenger returned to the witch he could not find her, for the spell upon the maiden was broken, and the witch was gone, whither none knew. Hans went with his spouse to the hermit, and they thanked him from their hearts, and in his presence the wedding was solemnised anew. The fishes, which were in fact men, banished by the

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HOW HANS FINDS HIS WIFE.

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same witch, were now also released from the spell. The maidens of the Crystal Mountain were the brides of the former fishes. As it was now Hans' wedding, the other husbands celebrated their wedding also, and there was no end of rejoicing, and they danced and danced till the ground, which was of gingerbread, was danced through, and they all fell down on the earth.

THE DRUMMER.

ONCE a town was sorely threatened by an enemy. Its inhabitants all fled, and the soldiers found nothing but a little boy, whom his parents had left behind in their haste. The soldiers brought the boy to their king, who kept him and brought him up. When the boy was grown up the king asked him what he would like to be. 'A soldier,' he replied. The king would not agree to this, so the boy resolved to go into the wide world to seek his lost parents. He begged from the king a big drum, and with this he went his way. He came into a gloomy forest, where he found an old ruinous hut. As he looked in he espied an old woman and a great number of bearded men, who appeared to be robbers. Some sat at a table and ate and drank, while others played at cards. So absorbed were they with their meal and the game that they did not notice the boy. The latter used the opportunity to hide himself in a dense thicket, and began to play the drum. Terrified by the sound, the robbers hastily sprang from the table and took to flight, thinking that soldiers were on the march.

it back shall have the three things.' The three devils agreed, and ran for the groschen, while he took quickly the sack and the boots, put on the cloak, and wished himself into the golden castle.

Entering, he found the enchanted princess with the two others, and an old wife besides, who watched over her and instructed her in magic. He explained to the old wife that he wished to release the princess, who had led him to his parents, and who was the youngest. Then the old wife replied, 'If thou desirest this, in three days thou must accomplish three labours which I shall lay upon thee; if thou dost not, 'twill cost thy life.' On these conditions he went in. On the morning of the first day she gave him a glass saw and a glass axe, with instructions to fell a hundred cords of wood in the forest hard by, and to split them up until night-He went into the forest, and, of course, the glass axe and saw broke in pieces at the very beginning of the work, and he sat down on a stone and wept. Meantime it was noon, and the youngest princess came with food, and asked him why he wept. Then he told her of his task and his misfortune. The princess in pity told him to eat, lie down and sleep, and when he awoke all would be accomplished. 'And if in the evening the old wife comes, do not get into the chariot in which she rides, for it is drawn by the devil; it consists of fire, and you would be burned up forthwith.' He followed this advice closely, and when he awoke about six o'clock all the work was done.

put up here and there a piece of wood; and when the old wife came rushing in the fiery chariot she was very alarmed. She tried to entice him into the chariot, and not succeeding, she went away in wrath. But he only put on his cloak and got back before her to the golden castle.

Next day she gave him a glass scythe and a glass rake, and bade him mow grass from the meadow hard by, which was a hundred fathoms broad and the same in length. He went to the meadow, and scarce had made the first stroke with the scythe when it fell to pieces. He could not use the rake, for he had mown no grass. Sadly he sat down on the stone, and thought that this time it would cost him his life. when it was noon the princess came and told him not to be so sad, but lie down and sleep, for his task would soon be done. 'And if the old wife comes again and tries to entice you into the chariot, refuse a second time.' Having eaten, he did as the princess bade him, and again slept till evening. Then he rose, and when the old wife came and could not succeed with all her efforts in enticing him into the chariot, she went home more angry than before. But he put on his cloak and reached the castle before her.

On the morning of the third day she gave him a glass shovel and a glass pickaxe, bidding him dig down the glass mountain, and in place of it to build a castle in the air, with a roof covered with feathers of all the birds in the world. He took the tools, went to the glass

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mountain and waited for noon. When the princess came again, she told him to do the same as before. He obeyed, and on awaking his task was already accomplished.

The old wife came to look after him, and as all was done she determined to take his life in another way. But the youngest princess, noticing this, resolved to flee with him the same night, and mentioned the plan. He agreed at once. The youngest princess pretended she was going to bed later that night, so that she might make the house tidy. The two departed, the princess having first spat on the floor three times and so made light. As she had twenty-mile boots, they got on famously. Towards eleven o'clock the old wife awoke, and as she still saw light in the room, she said, 'Will be ready soon?' 'Directly, directly, mother,' answered a spittle on the floor, and disappeared.

The old wife slept again, and when she awoke at twelve and at one the two spittles answered like the first to her question 'whether the girl had not gone to rest,' and then disappeared. She lay down again. And when about two o'clock she woke again the light was still burning, but in spite of all her questions she received no answer. She now made search, and was no little alarmed when she found that princess and peasant were both gone. Quickly she drew on her shoes, with which she could make thirty miles at a stride, and followed the fugitives. She had almost reached them when the princess observed her, and said to the

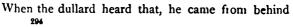
peasant, 'You will now become a great pond and I a fish.' And this took place. When the old wife came to the pool she lay down, for she knew what had happened. She tried to drink up the pond, so as to take the fish. And she had nearly emptied it when she burst asunder, and the water returned into the pool. Then the princess was restored to her true form, also the peasant, and both returned to his parents and lived long and happily.



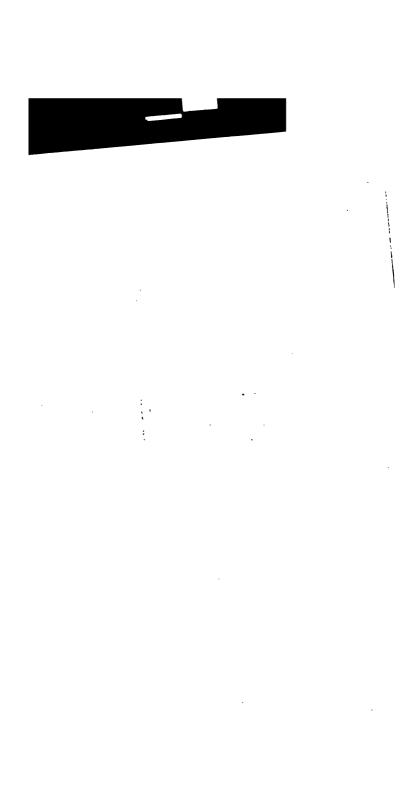
THE FAIREST BRIDE.

MANY years ago there lived a father who had three sons; the first was called Kristof, the second Philip, and the third Gottschalk. With the two elder he was well content, for they were active, and helped their father to work as well as they could; but the youngest was also the stupidest. The livelong day he stuck behind the oven, and no one could get on with him, though he did no one any harm. Perhaps he was not so stupid, but whatever he took up was amiss in the eyes of his brothers, and so he made no way in anything.

When the father became old, he wished to divide his whole property among his sons. But he could please none of them. One wanted this, and the other that, and the third grumbled and said that he whistled to his father for the whole property. 'Stay,' said the father, 'I will fight it out with you; if the fry does not suit you, it must be some other way. He that brings me the fairest and richest bride shall have the whole property; the other numskulls shall get nothing, so away with you!'









the stove, washed his face, and tied his bundle. The others loudly laughed, and said, 'Stupid nest-chicken, wouldst thou compare thyself with us?' bide in thy place behind the stove and kill the black beetles.'

But he was not to be frightened, but wandered forth with a good heart, and the two others followed. Gottschalk had nothing in his wallet but a piece of black bread, some goat's cheese, and his Sunday coat. He went on and on, and came into a great forest, in which were all kinds of beautiful plants and flowers. He sat down by a spring and ate. A little man came to him, wearing a long grey coat and a green cap, and begged Gottschalk to let him share his meal. 'Yes,' said he, 'sit down, if you don't mind.'

When they had eaten, the grey little man asked him whither he was going, and Gottschalk told him what his father had said, and how badly he had got on at home, as nobody could put up with him. 'I am very sorry for it,' said Greycoat, and began to comb poor Gottschalk's hair, and make it fall in a quantity of fine locks about his neck. The little man then made him put on his Sunday coat, and Gottschalk was now quite a handsome young fellow. Being thus decked out, he was shown the road he should take by the little man, who then left him. Gottschalk tramped bravely on the road till evening came on. All at once he heard beautiful singing; and advancing more quickly, he saw a lovely garden, the gate of which stood ajar. After a little hesitation he went straight in, but how surprised was he when he

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say in a hower a beautiful maiden, who quite ravished Fire with her store. He approached the bower, and peoped in through a slight opening between the leaves, the the marien had heard the noise, and looked up to see who was there. When she saw the trim young fellow, she was greatly alarmed, but Gottschalk went up and told her haw he had come thither. Soon he told her that she pleased him well, and asked if she would not be his bride, and spend her life with him. Soon they became duite confidential, and chatted on for some time. But when the mother of the maiden, who was a mighty fairy, came up and saw a strange youth with her daughter, she was very angry. But the handsome fellow pleased her, nevertheless; and when he said he desired to become her son-in-law, she consented, and straightway the wedding preparations began. All the friends were invited, and 'Death' and his wife came among them. Gold and jewels sparkled on their clothes, so that Gottschalk knew not whither to turn his eyes. He was delighted with the excellent food. Such good cakes his departed mother had never made; and he feasted as if he was going to fast seven weeks, and would almost have neglected his lovely wife. Yet not idly says an old proverb: 'If the donkey fares too well, he goes dancing on the ice.' Gottschalk had long been curious to know what his wife was doing when every eight days she shut herself up in the dark chamber. The devil of curiosity tormented him that he gave her no rest with his stioning. But she would not tell him, and thought

her happiness would be at an end if he should learn the secret. For some time he kept silence, but not for long. By and by, when she again shut herself in, he glided up and looked through the key-hole; but what did he behold? His wife's thighs were clothed with hair, and she had goat's feet! An ice-cold feeling ran down his back when he saw that he had a monster for his wife. Yet he consoled himself, thinking, 'It won't last long, and then she will be beautiful as before.' But this time our Gottschalk had not reckoned aright. The hour when she usually came out had long passed, and his wife came not. He went to listen at the door, and heard a sobbing and wailing that might have softened a stone.

He could hold back no longer, and broke the door open. 'Yes, come now,' said she, 'and see what you have done. I must remain in this form, and our happiness is at an end, all at an end, only because you have seen me in this form. Now you must depart, and only by love and faithfulness can you redeem your fault.'

Gottschalk was greatly astonished at these words; once more he desired to embrace his wife, but as he stretched out his hands to her he felt himself thrust back, and all disappeared—castle, garden, and bower. He began to weep, but it was of no use; he had to drink of his own brew. Looking round, there stood the grey little man before him. 'You have got into a pretty mess through your curiosity, but I will help you out of the difficulty; only it will take a pretty long time. The

great point is to find your wife's castle, and to redeem your fault by patience and good conduct. I must not show you the way, but seek the Sun, and perhaps he will tell you something about it.' Then the old man disappeared suddenly, as he had come. Gottschalk was right glad, for he hoped that things would soon come right again. So he wandered on, further and further, hither and thither, but the Sun he could not find. year passed, and he had not reached his goal, and neither food nor drink had he taken; for the whole story is singular and strange. One day, having again uselessly wandered, he said to himself, 'Come, Gottschalk, the little man will make a fool of you; ' but just then he suddenly became warmer and warmer, there was a flickering and lightening through the forest as he went on, and the further he went, the more he approached the light, the hotter he became. 'That may be the Sun,' thought he. Right, so it was. In a transparent house of clear glass sat Mother Sun, and turned a wheel, with which she spun splendid gold threads. Her head glistened and glowed like the great oven fire, yet not so her body. She had a garment of purple silk, which was darker and darker in its lower part, and coal-black shoes on her feet. Gottschalk would have been glad to have questioned the Sun, but he could not go up to her, it was so intolerably hot. So he placed himself behind a bush and cried to the Sun, asking whether she could not direct him to the castle of his wife. He told her there was a lovely garden there, and

on its trees golden apples and silver blossoms, and the roof of the castle was of pure gold, and the whole lay in the midst of the forest.

Said the Sun to him, 'Lie down and sleep under a tree, and I will look about meantime, and then tell thee whither thou hast to go.' The Sun then began to sparkle and flame as when one casts fresh wood into an oven; she shone into every corner, but she saw no castle covered with gold. And when she told Gottschalk so, he was very sad and despairing. 'Yet stay,' said the Sun, 'I appear only by day; my cousin the Moon appears by night, perhaps he knows. Only go straight on, and thou wilt come to him.'

Several weeks passed, and he had to undergo many troubles before he got there. One evening he noticed a white silver light in the distance, and coming nearer saw a glass house, in which sat an old man, with silverwhite hair and a beard of the same colour, a grey coat with silver buttons, and grey shoes with silver buckles. In the little room were a number of silver flies, which shone more brightly than glow-worms, and fluttered and flickered in the air here and there. But so cold was it that Gottschalk shivered all over like an empty mill. When the Greybeard saw him, he asked him in astonishment what he wanted, whereupon Gottschalk told him all, and begged him to see where was the abode of his dear wife, and bewailed his former stupidity and curiosity. 'Only be quiet,' said the Moon, 'I will do my best. Lie down and sleep, and I will see to it meanwhile.

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And now the insects fluttered away as if the world was at stake. But our friend the Moon saw nothing from his castle.

When he told this to poor Gottschalk, the latter was very sad, and began to weep. 'Only be quiet,' said the Moon; 'I will give you a piece of advice. Go to my godfather the Wind, greet him and tell him your sorrow; he pipes through all holes, and probably he will have blown through the one you want. Only go to the place where the Wind blows and you will find him.' So poor Gottschalk had to wander on again. He went always towards the Wind, but it was many days before he came to the dwelling of the godfather. At last he suddenly caught sight of a mountain, which had four great hollows, one above and one below, one right and one left, and inside was the Wind, who blew now out of this hollow and now out of that.

Gottschalk wanted to go in by the lower hollow, but the Wind blew directly from it and hurled him far away. At his cries the Wind burst forth, and seeing him lying there, asked him what he was seeking. Gottschalk gave the greeting from the Moon, whereupon the Wind became more friendly, and made him go into the room, and state his business. They went together through a gloomy passage, and came into a room where an oil-lamp was burning. And now Gottschalk could inspect Mr. Godfather more closely. He had a green cloak, reaching to his heels, and a similar cap. Instead of a paunch he had a leather blowing-

bag, with which he blew now out of this and now out Gottschalk took his seat on a bench of that hole. in the room and told the Wind all, begging him to take up his cause and help him to recover his wife. she is actually in the world,' said the Wind, 'I shall soon be able to find her. I have only to call my comrades, who blow in all parts of the world; one of them will have seen her.' He then whistled through a hole, till Gottschalk's ears tingled. Soon came a whole mob of these fellows, but none knew anything about a castle roofed with gold. Then said the Wind, 'I have one humpbacked comrade on the tramp, and if he does not know I cannot help you.' Then he piped through all the holes. Gottschalk thought it was all over with his prospects of future happiness, and gave way to thoughts of being scoffed at by his brothers, when the hunchback came up. The master asked him whether he had seen a gold-roofed castle, surrounded by a charming garden, where an enchanted lady dwelt. am just come thence, where I dried the washing. There was a pretty maiden in the garden, but she had greyish goat's feet.' Gottschalk leapt for joy, like a young sturgeon, and begged the Wind that his comrade might lead him quickly to his wife. The Wind bade the hunchback do so, and the latter led the way in a kindly manner. 'Truly?' said the comrade, when they had got out of the mountain, 'wouldst thou indeed follow me, for it is many miles off?'

It would have been hard to do so, but the hunchback

knew of a plan. He took Gottschalk upon his hump without asking any questions, and let his master blow them on their way. Two days Gottschalk swayed between heaven and earth on the back of his companion. and only on the evening of the second day did they come down. Gottschalk wished to thank his bearer, for he knew that he was at the spot, yet as he was going to look round at him, he saw in his place his wife, standing before him with tears in her eyes. How astonished was he, on looking more closely at her, to see that she was shaped just like other human beings, and had neither goat's feet nor anything else peculiar! She embraced and kissed him, and said, 'See! what thou didst ruin by thy curiosity, thou hast again made good by thy love and thy patience; now we are happy, and shall again live in joy and happiness.' Then Gottschalk recollected his father and brothers, and the reason why he had wandered from his father's house. begged his wife to visit his father along with him, and she gladly consented. She clothed him and herself in the most splendid manner. The mother, who meantime had arrived, promised to bring a carriage, and in a few moments one came flying through the air. was all of gold, and six milk-white horses were yoked They got in, after taking leave of their mother, and went off at a gallop. It was not long before they came to Gottschalk's home. They stopped before his father's house. The people all looked out of the windows and gaped at them. It did not occur to them that this was the Gottschalk of days gone by. The father and brothers also looked out, and were no little frightened when the beautiful carriage stopped at their house and they recognised Gottschalk. The old father scarcely ventured to speak to him; but Gottschalk hastened to his father, heartily embraced him, and showed him his beautiful wife. The old man rejoiced beyond measure.

And now the stupid one had the fairest and richest bride, and was to have the whole property. So the brothers thought. But Gottschalk said, 'You have, indeed, done me much evil; you have scoffed at and scorned me, but I forgive you. I hand over the property to you entirely; for I have enough, and do not want it.' The brothers rejoiced at this, and thanked him. Gottschalk's wife was not behindhand, but presented her sisters-in-law with many fine garments and all kinds of precious stones.

Gottschalk then travelled away, having first related his experiences to his brothers, and promised to pay them a visit every five years; but the father he took with him, and all lived in content.

> The dance is o'er, the song is sped, Now bring me flowers to crown my head.



THE ACCURSED GARDEN.

Once there lived a king who had three sons, the youngest of whom, named Ludwig, was more handsome than the others, for which reason his brothers could not endure him. Early one morning the eldest went into his father's chamber to inquire after his health, for he was sick, and his father said to him, 'A white figure appeared to me in a dream, and told me that I should not get better until I had eaten a fruit out of the accursed garden.' The son offered to fetch the fruit, but the father, fearing that some evil might befall him, would not hear of it. After long entreaty, however, he consented, and gave him for this purpose a fine horse and plenty of money for the journey.

The son had not journeyed far when he came to an inn, where card-playing was going on. He joined the players, and gradually lost nearly all his money. When next day he was about to start again, the host advised him to tarry till evening and try his luck once more. But this evening also fortune smiled not on him, and he lost all, and not

being able to pay the host, was by him cast into prison.

There he sat, and his father waited in vain. Then the next son offered to fetch a fruit out of the accursed garden. After a long resistance the king consented. He came to the same host, and the same fate awaited him.

As the second son did not return, the king was greatly troubled. When Ludwig, the youngest, noticed this, he asked his father the cause of his grief. The king told him his dream, and also the reason why his two elder sons had gone away. Ludwig begged his father to let him set out to fetch the fruit, and at the same time seek out his brothers. Only after long prayers and promises to his father to return in a year's time, he left him, provided with plenty of gold.

Ludwig did not come to the inn where his brothers had gambled their money away, but got lost and came into a great forest, and only after long wandering about reached an open place before the hut of a hermit. He went into the hut, and begged the hermit to show him the way to the cursed garden. The hermit gave him a red ball, with the direction to cast it before him, and it would show him the way. And he added, 'During thy journey thou wilt first come to a black dog, and thou must sleep three nights with him. Then thou wilt come to a red dog, and then to a white maiden. Before thou reachest

the mountain on whose top the cursed garden is, thou wilt find a fig-tree. Tie thy horse to it. eleven o'clock in the morning go up the mountain and pluck some fruits, but take heed to leave the garden before twelve o'clock.' The prince followed all the hermit's directions. Having taken fruits from the tree of the cursed garden, he went to the castle, which stood in the midst of the garden, for it was only half-past eleven. There, to his astonishment, he found the owner of the castle sleeping in a richly decorated bed. He wrote his name and address on a billet, laid it on a table standing in the corner, and then hastily departed, for it was high time. At the foot of the mountain devouring beasts came after him, but he soon reached the fig-tree, and so was saved, for from this place the beasts had no more power. On the way back he came again to the white maiden. She begged him to divide a grape from a vine into four parts, and to cast a part into each corner of her dwelling. had he done this, when there was a violent thunderstorm, and in place of the small dwelling there was a splendid palace. Before its doors stood the owner and his wife, who thanked him for their deliverance. The lady was none other than the white maiden who had here been enchanted. Thereupon he journeyed on, and came to the red dog, with whom he did as before with a pear-tree, and who was thereby changed into a handsome prince. The like took place with the black dog. At last he came to the hermit. Here at

his bidding he cut a cherry into four parts, cast one to each corner of the house, and after a loud report, there stood again a handsome palace in place of the hut. The hermit was now also freed from the spell, and stood forth as a king, surrounded by a host of soldiers, thanked the prince for his release, and advised him to buy no meat during his journey to his father, that is, not to set free by ransom any condemned to death. He thanked the hermit and wandered on. happened, however, that the prince came into the city on the very day when his brothers were to be hanged, and when he ascertained that they were to lose their lives because they could not pay the host, he paid the host on their behalf, and both were set free. two released brothers he now continued his journey, and told them he had fetched a fruit from the cursed garden. Then an evil thought came into their minds, and they resolved to get possession of this fruit. this end they bought a similar fruit, and poisoned it, and during the night exchanged it for that of the cursed garden.

They now travelled further, and had to climb a high mountain in order to find their direction. On the top the young prince looked down into the valley. When the elder brother saw this, he gave him such a push, that he fell headlong into the valley, and there lay dead along with his horse. And thus the hermit found him, who had come thither to hunt. He at once guessed what had happened, took a flask containing liquid, and

put it to the prince's mouth, who came to life again, and thanked him for his deliverance. He then did so with the horse, and the like result followed. And now the hermit told him that his two brothers had changed the fruit, and had returned to their father with the genuine fruit. But he advised him nevertheless to go back to his father. If evil should befall him, he must bear it patiently, for a better time was coming. When he got home the prince was coldly received by all, his fruit was thrown to a dog, and when the animal died from the effects of the poison, the king ordered a servant to shoot Ludwig during next day's hunt. this servant disclosed to him the king's design, and Ludwig was preserved. But this was not the end of the affair. Soon after there appeared before the gates of the royal city the lady-owner of the cursed garden, with whom he had left behind his name. She was accompanied by a great army, and sent messengers to the king requesting to see the prince who had fetched the fruit from the cursed garden. The king sent the eldest and then the second; but both were sent back, for they could not describe the cursed garden. The lady of the cursed garden then sent heralds into the city to proclaim that if within three days the prince who had fetched the fruit was not delivered up, the city should be besieged. Then the servant who had been ordered to murder Ludwig confessed that he had spared The king was right glad, and had him sought for everywhere. They found him, and brought

him to the king. And when Ludwig came to the lady of the cursed garden, and accurately described the garden, he was greeted with rejoicings by the whole army, and the princess chose him for her consort.

THE ENCHANTED SLEEP.

ONCE there lived a count who was very rich. One day he rode with his wife to the fields to view the crops. All were, to his great satisfaction, in good order, and the pair rode back home. On the way a great storm arose, and so drove the dust into the count's eyes that he could see nothing. He had the doctor sent for to cure his eyes, but the doctor said he could not help him, for the dust had got too deeply into his eyes. The count had three sons, who were already tall fellows. One day he learned that in the neighbouring land there was a spring which healed any sufferer who bathed in its waters. When the eldest son heard this he begged his father for permission to seek the spring. The father gave him at once a fine horse, filled his pockets with-money, and dismissed him with his blessing. the evening he came into a great forest, in which there was an inn, where men, black as negroes, were playing at cards. They invited him to join. He agreed, but lost all his money, and got into debt besides. The black men locked him up, and he had to serve them. After a half-year the second brother set out, and he fared no better than the first.

A year had already elapsed, and the father waited in vain for the return of the sons. He was afflicted at this, and when the youngest observed it he begged for permission to go forth also. Much better provided than the other two, he set out with his father's blessing, came into the forest, and the inn where his two brothers remained. The black men invited him also to play, but he would not consent. There he passed the night, and set out early in the morning. As he came out he saw a number of men at work making a ditch round the inn. He was for riding on, when he saw a man among the labourers who looked very like his eldest brother. He spoke to him, and found that it was so. Then at the entreaty of his brother he paid their debts, and all were at liberty to go. Three days and nights they rode without stopping, and ate their food on horseback. Then they came to a hut which was uninhabited, and they resolved to stop there a few days. The third day the youngest went alone into the forest to hunt. There he saw a stag, and as he was about to fire his piece, the stag stood still and said, 'Shoot me not, perhaps one day I may help thee!'

The stag tore out one of his hairs and gave it to the youth, and said, 'If thou findest thyself in deadly danger, burn this hair and I will come to thy help.' He now went further, and saw a great eagle sitting on a tree; and as he was about to shoot it, the bird cried out and prayed him to spare its life, and some day he would be helpful to him. The count was quite aston-

THE ENCHANTED SLEEP.

ished, for such a thing had never happened to him before. The eagle flew down from the tree, bringing in his beak a feather, and said, 'If thou shouldst find thyself at any time in deadly danger, burn this feather, and I will come to thy help.' He let the eagle fly away, and went on, but scarce had made ten steps when he observed a wild boar in the bushes. In alarm he cocked his gun, but the beast began to beg him to spare his life. The boar gave him as sign a bristle, and said, 'If thou art in danger, thou need'st only to burn the bristle, and I will come to thy help.' now went back to his brothers, but told them nothing of what had befallen him. They did not question him, because they troubled themselves very little about him, and both only thought of taking his life.

Next morning they rode on, and came in the course of the day to a great castle, with a garden, and in it they saw a spring. The eldest wanted to go into the castle. Coming to the door, he found a billet fixed to it with the inscription, 'The spring in this garden heals all sicknesses.' Opening the door, he would have gone in, but was frightened and turned back. His brothers asked him what was the cause of his alarm, but he could give them no answer. Then the second brother went to the door and opened it, but scarce had he taken a step forward when he was so frightened that he fell down. Now the third went to the door, opened it,

went bravely in. Coming into the first room he d a number of soldiers, all asleep. He glided into



the second room, and found the king sitting on the throne, the queen lying on the sofa, and both asleep.

He dared not go nearer to the king, and glided into the third room. Here he saw a beautiful princess sleeping on a chair. Before her stood a table loaded with diamonds, and on it was a small basket containing needles and thread. On her lap lay a cushion, not yet quite finished, and by her on another chair there was wool. Further off stood another table, on which lay paper and pencil. On the other side was a diamond inkstand. Our hero plucked up heart, set himself at the table, took a pen and began to write. He wrote in brief his whole story, whose son he was, and how and why he had come. He was then about to depart, but observed on the wall a very small picture. He took it down and saw that it was the likeness of the princess. He went up and kissed her, and then hastily departed. Going back to his brothers, he told them the castle was uninhabited and quite ruined in the interior. now wanted to take water out of the spring and carry it home. The eldest was going to fill his flask, but the water vanished, and as he took away the flask the water appeared again.

Again he tried to dip, but the water vanished at the very moment that he was going to plunge the flask in. He now left the flask lying in the hollow, and thought if the water again appeared the flask would be filled, and then he could quickly take it out. But scarce had he let go the flask than the bubbling spring tossed it

high in the air, and it was dashed to pieces. second brother now tried to dip his flask, but fared like the first. Finally, the youngest went to the spring, dipped his flask in the water, and filled it quite full. The other brothers made a wry face, and their ill-will to their deliverer was increased. They held secret counsel, and coming into the forest where they had served as slaves, they fell upon their brother and murdered him. That no trace of the murder might be found they made a fire and cast him in. They then took all his property and hastened home. But as the fire burned on, the hair, the feather, and the bristle were seized by the flames, and immediately the stag, the eagle, and the boar appeared. They drew him out of the fire, brought all manner of salves and herbs, and at the end of half an hour he again stood up sound and well. They brought him a garment; he thanked the beasts and went on, not to his father, but to a village, to take service with a farmer.

After a year the father received a letter from the princess, who, with all her family, had been set free by the youngest son. It contained the request that the son who had been in her room should come to her. At the same time, she had strewed the whole road with diamonds, thinking that by this test she should recognise the right youth, for he would certainly not spare the diamonds, but ride right over them. First came he eldest brother, and she asked him what he had seen when he was in the room. He could not say, and so

was sent away. The like happened to the second. The father now wrote that he had no son, the third was dead. Then she demanded his body, but he could not send it. The affair got wind, and our young peasant heard of it. Immediately he begged his master for leave of absence for a few days, and obtained it. Forthwith he rode in his peasant dress to the castle. He spared not the diamonds, but rode over all the jewels. Presenting himself to the princess, he answered to the question what he had seen in the room, and she greeted him as her deliverer and her consort. Soon the wedding was celebrated, and the father and brothers were invited. The son told the father about the treacherous brothers, and the father had them executed without mercy.

THE THREE PRINCESSES.

ONCE there reigned in a great kingdom a king who had three daughters, greatly beloved by him. One day they went out for a walk, and never returned. The king was beside himself with grief, and sent out messengers to seek his three daughters, but all in vain; the messengers returned without having found the slightest trace of them. The king then resolved to give one of his daughters and the kingdom to the man who should bring the lost ones back. This was proclaimed in the city. Then two journeymen tailors offered to seek for the lost ones. The old king agreed, and gave them a sum of money, with which they set out on their journey of discovery. The first evening they turned into an inn which stood by the roadside.

An old soldier, Hans by name, had also heard of the king's proclamation, and had declared himself ready to seek out the princesses. The king gave him likewise money for the journey. Hans took the same road as the tailors, and came into the same inn. He ordered a glass of wine, and was quite lost in thought, when the tailors asked him why he was so thoughtful, and tried to

cheer him up. Hans told them he was come out to seek the lost princesses.

The tailors rejoiced to have found a companion; they also told him they had the same purpose, and invited him to travel with them. Late in the evening they betook themselves to rest. Next morning they travelled further, and each went by a different road. They agreed to meet in the evening at a particular spot. All their seeking was in vain; they met at the appointed spot, and again sought a shelter in which to pass the night. So it happened on the following two days. The third day Hans came to a small and very poor wooden hut, standing in the midst of the forest, and inhabited by an old wife.

He went in, and begged for fresh water to quench his thirst. The old wife gave him what he asked for, and asked him whence he came and whither he was going.

Hans told her he had come from the king's city, and had gone forth to seek the princesses, who had vanished. The old wife said, 'Give me your money, and I will show you the place.'

Hans did not need to be asked twice, but gave the old wife his money. She led him to a spring in the forest, and pointed it out as the spot where the princesses were concealed. But the old wife warned him against the two tailors, who meant mischief, and called his attention particularly to the following direction. When he had gone down into the spring and released the daughters, he must come up first and they must follow.

Beside himself with joy, he returned to his comrades and told them what he had heard. They resolved that they would go on the following day to the spring, and let Hans down with a long rope.

So the day after they went with a very long rope to the fatal spring, and let Hans down; but at the same time they agreed not to draw him up again, that they might be recognised as saviours of the lost ones. Hans got safely down into the depth of the spring, and wandered for some time in dark and gloomy passages, until at last he came into a very long passage leading into a great hall. There he opened the middle door, and would have gone in, but how terrified was he, when, full in front of the entrance, he observed a dragon which threatened to devour him. The hall was most splendidly adorned, and in the background sat upon a throne the eldest princess. When Hans observed her, he quickly drew his sabre, and began a perilous fight with the dragon. At last he succeeded in slaying the monster. Thus had he delivered the princess, but it remained to deliver the other two. He opened a second great door, leading into another larger and finer hall, which was guarded by a dragon with seven heads. the background sat the second princess. Not long did Hans hesitate, but began the battle, which was much more dangerous than the first. After two hours' fighting Hans remained the victor, the second princess was released, and the youngest only remained.

The two released ones remained in their hall, and

Hans prepared, after a slight rest, to complete his work. He opened a third door of the hall, and came into a long narrow passage leading into a large and splendid garden. After wandering about for some time he discovered a small but very handsome castle, watched by a dragon with nine heads. The approaching combat threatened to be still more severe, for the dragon spat However, Hans lost not his spirit, but began to fight like a madman. It was almost over with him, had not the monster fallen into a very steep and deep pit. When Hans saw this he gathered as many stones as he could, and cast them down on the dragon, who soon perished. The princess was beside herself for joy, and placed a ring on his finger as a slight token of her gratitude. They then betook themselves to the other two released princesses, and returned to the opening of the spring, and again caught sight of the light of day.

Enraptured at the happy deliverance, Hans forgot the words of the old wife, and allowed the three princesses to be drawn up first. But how horrified was he when these had been drawn up to find that the villainous tailors no more let down the rope to draw him up again! They compelled the princesses to swear that they would declare them to be their deliverers, and then set out on their homeward journey. Coming to the chief city, there was a great concourse of people, and all were rejoiced at the return of the princesses. The king gave each tailor a daughter and a third of the kingdom, and on the third day the wedding was to be celebrated.

Our Hank who had remained below in the well, sair ain which in Weary and worm, he lay down in one of the talks and fell asleep till next morning. That he windered about in the subterranean world, in a name in list into a great forest, then to mountains, in fining it high ricks. Here he espied an eagle's test and going up fed the young ones with meat and that I After some time the old eagle came and said to The I will take thee to the upper world, but on the vi mil must a minually feet me with flesh.' Hans control the proposal with joy, and seating himself on the same that flow want him into the air. So The limit Hams name up. Now the eagle was a king, Line young ones were his children, who in this way in a sometime released. Hans and the eagle rendered - 1112 marks, and each went his homeward way. There Hars came into the city, all was in movement i existences. He impaired the cause, and found that the mediting of the princesses with their deliverers as allege to be telebrated. Hans dressed himself, there's a rustle, and gave himself out as a singer. He as made he come, and even honoured at the table with a day of wire offered him by the youngest princess. His my drumk the same. Hans cast the ring which he A green siderom the youngest princess into the beaker, ger einem Lätter bes

The cold serving this inquired the course, and learned the colds. The cold king of serving this inquired the colds, and learned that Hans was the deliverer and

not the tailors. So he received the youngest princess and the whole kingdom. But the two tailors were placed in tubs studded with nails, and rolled down from a mountain, so that they miserably perished. The wedding was celebrated with great pomp, and afterwards Hans returned to the forest to seek the old wife, who was a witch. For Hans had learned that it was through her power that the three princesses had been banished into the well. When he found the old wife, he caused her to be bound; at the same moment beasts of all kinds, great and small, came from all sides.

Seeing this, Hans hewed with his sabre among them, and suddenly the beasts were changed into handsome lords and ladies, who had likewise been enchanted by the old witch, and who were in this manner released by Hans. They were mostly princes and princesses, and made rich presents to Hans, who caused the witch to be executed, and lived many years with his young wife in happiness and content.



THE SUITOR.

ONCE there was a king who had a very beautiful daughter. When she came to a marriageable age, he sent messengers through the land to proclaim that only the man who could answer the questions proposed by her should win her for his wife. Many tried their luck, but none could answer the questions. There lived in a village a peasant, who had three sons. Two of them were famed far and wide for their wisdom, and both went to the castle with confidence, yet had to return without having succeeded. The third of the peasant's sons was extremely stupid. He now also desired to go to the castle; and as all dissuasions were in vain, his father at last determined to go along with him.

When they got into the open country stupid Hans saw a nail lying on the ground. 'The nail may be of use,' said Hans, and put it in his pocket. Soon after he found an egg, and this he also put up. The father was vexed at the behaviour of his 'booby,' and threatened to give him a thrashing. Hans, however, took no notice, and went on his way. When they got into the castle-yard he picked up a lump of earth. 'Block-

head,' said his father, 'we shall be chased out of the castle if thou playest foolish tricks.' 'Never mind,' said Hans, rolling up the clod in a cloth and putting it in his pocket. Then they went into the hall where the test had to be undergone.

The pair were quite dazzled by the prevailing splendour; but they had not much time to collect themselves.

The princess came in, and said to Hans, 'I have a fire within me!' 'And I have an egg in my pocket, so we can seethe it,' answered the booby. She started; Hans had given the right answer. 'There is a hole in our pan!' she went on. 'And I have a nail to close the hole with,' was the answer. The astonishment of the princess was increased. At last she said, 'Truly, a lump of dirt!' 'I have that too in my bag,' answered Hans quickly.

The princess hastened to the king, and with tears deplored that she must take such a clown for her husband. The king called Hans, and said, 'Some time ago I was robbed of a ring; I give thee three days to discover the thief in, and if thou bringest me the ring, my daughter shall be thy wife.' The young fellow remained in the castle, and had plenty to eat and to drink. The first day, when the servant brought his supper, Hans said, 'Thank God, that's one of them!' He meant he had got through one of the days. The servant hurried away trembling, and told his two fellowthieves that the peasant fellow knew all about it. The



THE SUITOR.

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next evening the huntsman came with the food, and Hans said, 'There's the second I've seen through!' The huntsman went in a fright out of the room, and told the footman and the cook what Hans had said. Then they came and brought him the ring and two hundred gulden, and begged him not to betray them. Hans took money and ring, and promised to say nothing about it. The court were astonished when they saw the ring, and asked him how he came by it. He replied he had got it back by magic.

Then the king bade his daughter prepare to marry Hans. She wept, and begged that he might be put to one more test. The king finally consented, and had a great banquet prepared. Hans tasted of the dishes, and troubled himself little about the approaching decisive trial. After a while a covered dish was placed on the table. Hans was to guess what was on it. Quietly he said. 'I have guessed so much already, I will guess this suet too.' The cover was removed, and it was seen that Hans had guessed rightly. Hans had won the game, and the wedding was celebrated, to the great grief of the princess.

THE MOUTH-CURE.

MANY years ago there lived a king who had a very big mouth. This affliction had been sent upon him by a witch, because he had not fulfilled a wish of hers. The king was ever in growing vexation about his mouth, and resolved to give his daughter's hand to the man who would cure him.

In a village not far from the palace there lived a peasant couple who had a son named Joseph, called in the village, because of his stupidity, 'Dunce Sepple.' When he was eighteen years old he had to go from home to seek his fortune. Provided with bread and meat he wandered forth next morning, and came, after a long journey, into a great forest, and, wearied out, sat down in the shadow of a great tree, and took out his provisions. It was evening, so he offered up a prayer at a chapel standing near the tree, and fell asleep.

Towards midnight he heard a loud crash, and awaking, saw two white spirits standing by the chapel, and one of them spoke as follows: "Tis now a year and a day since I, because of an unfulfilled wish, caused the mouth of the king of the kingdom near here to grow so

THE BUILD COME

may new one must per our head in. But he can be mean of the south the mine. Two hours' distance then man man mean a a small lake. He wise brings the may fine the mean the first with nine eyes, and gives it the man will see that then from his minimum. Then I show me must be placed vanished in a poise as of finance. Seems amount in places vanished in a poise as of finance. Seems amount in seek his income.

Thereis minimize he was at the end of the firest, and an area of mile its braiding. As he was eating, . .m. mar trovet mi moret tion tim. When Servic are now manuforms was a nominal to him that tenure to mer mer to lede vis. He whil the meeter mit mit mile milet by a ibm. Giftly berne maser as audie mi begrei die dielero and him. It was very slow work but it has then came n ne warer-in das Senie mmediately locked out a state anima a aless of block upon u in the form of a tel, and group have to the water fished about. He anym i were in a minur diden mid nic this with the time eres. He become six if the fixing, but the anner ergen nur in fish mare mare end doing so to us that we see that the wishelffer fish. He too it in as morde market the made and markets as fast as to crain. In the war be already saw Himself clothed nistication purposes and setting to the throat receiving the great men of the homeform.

ther he give brone he table all, and that himself antiquiness is the king of MCD said he footnin the hand

of your daughter, I will entirely cure you of your unfortunate mouth.' The king gave his word, and Sepple placed the fish in the king's mouth, and when he had gulped it down his mouth became of a natural size. The king kept his word, and after some days the wedding was celebrated, and such merry doings were there, would I had been there to see !



THE BEAD MERCHANT.

ONCE there was a peasant couple who had a son called Hansel. As he grew up he ought to have been put to a trade, but as from a boy he had been good for nothing, no one was willing to take him. His parents were very grieved at this, and not long after died. And now our Hans was alone, and knew not how to help himself. So he went into the forest; he picked juniper berries, threaded them on a string, and sold them at the church on Sunday as beads. But as he did not get much money for these, he was soon tired of the trade, and took to begging. Folk called him 'Hansel, the bead merchant,' because he gave beads to those who gave him alms. His thieving habits, however, were so bad, that all became afraid of him, and got out of his way. He dared no longer remain in the village. but haunted the forest, slept in a cave, and attacked all who passed by, and took their money. Once he went to his grandmother, who was baking cakes, for it was Shrove-tide. 'Oho,' said Hansel, 'I can bake cakes; I have seen from those that know how.' 'Well done.' said the grandmother, 'show me.' Hans took a piece

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of dough, seized old Annel by the hand, rolled her in the dough, and held her in the hot fat. screamed, but Hansel held her fast until she fainted from pain. Then he released her and went into the forest again. There he saw a woman, who was carrying a tub full of crockery on her back. She did not know the bead merchant, but on greeting him Hansel asked whence she came. 'From market,' said she, 'in the town, and have bought a few things there.' 'Are you not afraid of the bead merchant?' said he. 'If he sees you, he will take them all away.' 'Ah,' said the woman, 'he won't hurt me.' Then Hansel went a bit with her, and on the way he said, 'I am fearfully thirsty.' 'Wait a bit,' said the woman, 'I will fetch you water.' She put down her basket, and went for the water. Meanwhile Hansel smashed all the crockery and went his way.

Once, however, he tried it on with the wrong man, who gave him a sound thrashing, and brought him before the magistrate. The clergyman, who was dining with the judge, wondered how Hans could steal in such a fashion, and would hardly believe it. 'Oho,' said Hans, 'you yourself shall give me all you have.' 'Rascal,' said the clergyman, 'if that is your game, all that I give you shall be your own indeed!' Hans long waited, then took opportunity to slip into the church, bolted himself in, lighted all the tapers, and rang all the bells at midnight. The sexton heard them, and went to see what was the matter. Hans had hung a great linen

circi about him, and placed himself at the high altar. The second emering iell upon his knees; but Hans said that he was the Lord, and only the priest must speak with him. The sexton went and fetched the priest. The latter came, crept on hands and knees to the altar, and asked what was the will of the Lord. Then the bisscheme answered, 'If thou wilt, thou canst go up In heaven with me. The priest was willing, and Hans ming him to put all he had in a sack and bring it, the priest brought all his gold and silver. Swiftly Hans 230k another sack, and told him to slip in. The priest creek in, and the roome carried him far out into the fixest. There he threw him on a stone-heap, so that the poor priest whimpered and cried out. 'Very good,' said Hans, that is the stoning.' Then he dipped him in the brook, and said, 'That is the Jordan baptism.' Again the priest cried out, and kept asking, 'Are we not yet in heaven?' Directly,' said Hans, and threw him into a thorn-bush. The poor priest was pierced all ever, and cried until people heard him in the distance and set him free from the sack. When the priest got out he asked. 'Are ye also in heaven?' And then for the first time he saw how matters stood, and that the bead merchant had led him by the nose.

THEY DANCE TO THE PIPE.

ONCE there lived a couple who had three sons. Two of them passed for the handsomest fellows of the place; but they played every kind of trick on their brother, who was a hunchback. At first the latter took no notice, but the brothers carried their tormenting so far that at last he was compelled to go away from home.

The hunchback went sorrowfully on, and wandered the whole day through the mountains. Towards evening he was so weary that he swooned away, and lay on the roadside. On awakening he saw a little man two feet high standing by him, and on the point of pouring a yellow liquid into his mouth from a bottle. The hunchback looked about him, and saw to his surprise that he was in a cavern, lighted by a faint light. The dwarf spoke to him, and asked whether he was hungry. 'O yes,' he said, and the dwarf led him into another room, where stood a covered table. 'Of these dishes, said the dwarf, 'partake as much as thou wilt; and when thou hast eaten enough, lie down in yonder bed and sleep till I wake thee.' The hunchback did as

the dwarf bade him, and soon forgot all his troubles in a sound sleep.

Next morning the dwarf awoke him, and after breakfasting they went out of the cave through a long passage, lighted only here and there by a feeble oil lamp. For two hours they wandered, when suddenly through a door they came into the open. Here the dwarf held out his hand to the hunchback, and said, 'Thou seest here a place quite strange to thee, but fear not, and travel on this road. As a keepsake from me take this little pipe. It has the property of making every one who hears it dance, and that as long as thou pipest.' The dwarf vanished, and the hunchback went on his way. Presently a shepherd met him, and he thought he would try the power of the pipe upon him. He took it in his hand and piped, whereupon the shepherd instantly began to dance. Even the sheep leaped joyously around in a circle. Then he came into a forest, where night surprised him. He got under an elder-bush, and was going to lie down and sleep, when he heard a noise hard by, growing louder every moment. At first he was alarmed, but soon he glided nearer to the spot. Concealed by a drooping branch he observed a number of robbers, who were dividing their booty, consisting of many gold pieces. The glittering gold attracted him, and he bethought him how he could get hold of it.

His pipe occurred to him. Quickly he took it in his

hand, and blew hard into it. Instantly the robbers got up and danced until they fell down. Then the hunchback came out, took the money and ran away. In the course of a few hours it became brighter, and he arrived at a place where the people seemed to be very sad. He asked the cause, and learned that the landlord, who had been so good to the people, was going to sell his property, and move to another place. The hunchback went to the proprietor, purchased his property, and became lord of the land. He treated the tenants very kindly, only he was very fond of teasing them with his pipe. One day there came two beggars, who begged an alms from him. He looked more closely at them, and recognised his two brothers. He disclosed himself, and asked how it had come about that they were going round as beggars. They told him that soon after his departure a fire had broken out in the place, which consumed all their property. Their parents could not save themselves in time, and perished. And as the brothers had nothing left, they had set out, and so come to that place. Then they begged the hunchback's pardon for their behaviour to him in the past. He readily granted it, and retained them on his property.

But one morning he said to his brothers, 'Dear brothers, I told you how I came into the property. I will now do you a pleasure; look upon the property as your own, and I will go forth to seek another.' At first the brothers refused, but as he would not listen to

THEY DANCE TO THE PIPE.

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them, they let him go, and wished him much good luck on the journey. He went on, and had wandered for some months, when one day a gentleman in splendid attire joined him. They spoke of different things, and presently the gentleman showed him a box, saying that it would never be empty. 'I could use that,' said the hunchback. The gentleman promised it to him if he would bind his soul to him. But the hunchback refused, because he knew of an easier way of getting the box. He took his pipe, and piped so long that at last the devil, for such the fine gentleman really was, fell all of a heap. Then he took the box, went into a great city, and lived long, rich and respected.

THE HOPPING NIGHT-CAP.

ONCE there was a king who had three sons. day a Jew came and showed him a very fine nec cloth, and said if the king could make such an one l was willing to lose his head. 'Good,' said the kin 'thou riskest much; I will do the same. One of n three kingdoms shall be thine if I lose the wager; not, thou losest thy head.' The Jew went away ar was glad, for he thought the king would never be ab to get so fine a neckcloth. Then the king called h three sons and told them all, saying at the end, 'If yo do not wish your patrimony to be diminished, try to g a finer neckcloth. He who has the finest obtains th stake of the kingdom. The three brothers went the way to seek the neckcloth. The two elder had agree not to take the younger, whom they could not endur and left him behind in a thick forest. When he sa that he was forsaken he began to weep bitterly. time there came a white Night-cap hopping up on i strings, and asked him, 'Why weepest thou?' He to his whole story. Then said the Night-cap, 'Be of goo cheer; come, and I will help thee.' She then touched tall tree with one of the strings, and instantly a lord

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ners not been not The value place seemed to क्त सम्बद्ध के अपने के किया कार्या के प्रश्न के किया कि tine with their arrest it has been mis ner. the second representation of the second records ares no man no a man nome in mass. In an arthur the state and a first which is take Notice and se amended the service. The the construction and the content waster and the send it is place. The ें पर पारत है के बादा का बार्ज के के किस की em s n. mae se qui a em m h rown new Estates and and a land wi or the way in the same with the un und in die east van sawe die die held die d rus a rest automorphism and are fire Who is the set the set Estatem I so and the said to the said five said five in the angan din mana man ika i ika **mi yami** Standard or or other or other descripts er e. na – Thrum in reinig Jen sudnebig ಾಗ ಎಂದು ಮಹಾದಮಾಡು - Tandacase ಮತ to the time name into the second for street is a concept of the first like in the first The common and the province is in-Korrola dali da ancidenta male ni 🖟 18 7 in was so into into into into Seen the 🕮 🖿 🕾 👉 sy n te met. Tie vie mi State of Same

Of course, the kingdom and the Jew's head belonged to the youngest son. However, he left the hasty pedlar's head on his shoulders, and after giving him a good beating, sent him on his way.

One day a second Jew came to the king, and showing him a ring, said he would lose his life on the gallows if the king could obtain so fine a ring. The king again staked a kingdom, and gladly the Jew departed, thinking he certainly should be king. Then the king said to his three sons, who had all heard what passed, 'You have heard that I have again wagered one of my kingdoms; see to it, then, that you obtain a finer ring, that your heritage may not fall into another's hands.' So the brothers set out again. The youngest went straight to the forest, determined to seek out the Nightcap, and present his request; for he thought to himself, 'She helped me once, perhaps she can again.' not long had he waited before he saw the Night-cap hopping about. He ran up to her and said, 'Dear Night-cap, help me again in my need, if thou canst, as thou didst before, and I will be grateful to thee to my dying day.' The Night-cap rejoiced that the prince had so much confidence in her, and that he turned to her in his need. So she asked him what he wanted. And when she had heard his story, she said, 'If that is all, it can easily be done, only come with me to my castle.' She led him again to the great tree, tapped it with one of her strings, and the castle stood before them. They went up the staircase into a great hall.

THE HOPPING NIGHT-CAP.

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These smool a chest full of splendid rings. The primes make tree, and after thanking the Night-cap, went home.

It his inher's castle they were waiting for him; his irrichers had already returned. The next day was fixed fix the fecision. Again all the great ones of the kingdom assembled in the throne-room to be witnesses at the fecision. The king sat on his throne; on his main hand as the stake, by crown and sceptre, while in the rount a gallows had been set up for the Jew, in hase he should lose the wager.

First the two elies brothers showed their rings. vicini were fine ones, but far less so than that of the lew. The latter thought he would be made king; but he was specific change his opinion. When the youngest showed his mig. if were astonished at its beauty. The law began to whimper, and begged for his life. He was awaried a sound cudgelling, and went his way. and so the youngest prince became lord of two kingitems. The elder brothers hated him bitterly, and ismaniei of the king that an exploit might be set them and so they might inherit a kingdom also. He answered 'My sons, I would see you all happy, so at my time kingdom be his portion who brings home the filest bails within a year.' The brothers were content and the elder soon set out for foreign kingdress to feath their brides. The youngest thought to houself. Go your ways, I shall seek out my Night-cap He went into the forest, and said, 'Dear

Night-cap, be not offended that I am always teasing thee, but in this matter I cannot dispense with thy counsel.'

The Night-cap rejoiced to hear him say this. she replied, 'Come to the castle, and I will impart to thee the counsel thou desirest.' They went to the tree, and by the touch of the string the castle was conjured up again. As they entered, the Night-cap said, 'Go now into the kitchen, there stands a great pot, fill it with water from the well in the court, and let it boil, but on no account utter a word, otherwise we are both lost.' He went into the kitchen, and fetched the pot. When he came to the door, there stood by it a fearful giant, who seized him by the throat, pointed a sword at his breast, and cried, 'Who art thou?' 'Who art thou?' cried the There was no answer. giant again, and threateningly brandished his sword. After once more repeating the question, and receiving no answer, he cast the prince into the court-yard, who lay exhausted by the well. Presently he plucked up heart, and was about to fill the pot with water, but as he dipped his hand in it was suddenly seized by a hideous old wife. She asked him what business he had there. As he made no answer, she threatened to drag him down into the water, but still he made no The third time she well spattered him, but then allowed him to draw water unmolested. carried the pot filled with water into the kitchen, and made it boil. And when it began to bubble he went

THE PURITY NUMBER CAR.

and the Kan-and She was with him the and the second s ar as the are the job which that these are the am a mas an No mei de ride. I ell mana I wang mmenyange ni myseki. At his, ater mare entremes, he gave way, and hid as she bade. En une ser un me montrome-block und backed ber one small means when he then threw into the not View me was time he heard the Night-on incessarily orași îterani erane au Henrichi ît șecț a or he also to mad he wrong. In an hour's the manufacture among facility make the whole castle en a mi na proma fal ni ne promi. But hiw grain was its estimational what the bid of the pot rise. in a prime of viniting factors and firth, and and I was me Mynosim, mil is in enthantellytincess the morning is the firm visibel by a gire and a the fill I was themself. This thin hist dince! Then s, car me more was minaged with people, and serious and rushin mount. The firest was suddenly compete and a great stangibles, the property of the races. The primes then led the primess to his and the time armed of the price from his brothers. 300 to exect of them the gave a portion of his kingdom. He was the process, and long lived a mighty king a minass mi com



SEPPLE WITH THE GOLDEN HAIR.

ONCE there was a poor peasant and his wife who had a son named Sepple. In course of time they became better off, and Sepple went to the town to buy a horse. When he came to the horse-market he found a rich lord there, who bought up all the finest horses, so that there were none left for Sepple. But the rich lord wanted a servant, and so he hired Sepple, who was a fine stout Joyfully Sepple rode home with his master. Presently they came into a forest, so wild and gloomy that Sepple began to wish they might soon get out of it. The further they went, the darker it became. two days' riding, suddenly they were at the end of the forest, and it was like a weight fallen from Sepple's neck when he saw their destination before them. the midst of a beautiful pasture stood a splendid castle. the like of which he had never set eyes on. When they went in, he was no longer surprised at the fine rooms and the fine things in them. Having looked at them all, he was led by his master into the stable and shown a fine white horse. 'Sepple,' said the lord, 'thou hast

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nought to do but feed this horse every day. Thou shalt have meat and drink, and want for nothing.'

Sepple was well pleased, thinking nothing could better suit him. When the lord was gone, the white horse told Sepple to go into the court, where he would find a spring, and bring back a glass of water. Sepple went and brought back the water, and the horse took it and poured a little on Sepple's head. Suddenly his hair turned to gold. Then Sepple leaped on the horse's back, and rode away like the wind for home. When he got there, the white horse said he must not go to his father and mother, he must give him some of the water to sip. Sepple did so, and suddenly a beautiful princess. with long golden hair, stood before him. Sepple wedded her, and became a great king. His father and mother. who had been in great fear about Sepple, he took to his castle, and the wicked wizard, who had bewitched the princess, was burned. Sepple prospered, and there was no better king than our Sepple.

Now we've a tale to tell
About the longer ell,
About the shorter week,
Father made the pig to squeak;
Then gets & a sansage.
A sansage & an i & a sansage.
He a pair of checker i hose.
And thou—a slap upon the nose!

NOTES.

[The additions in brackets have been made by the Translator.]

P. 17. Hondiddledo.—From Röhrawiesen, in Lower Austria. See the author's Mythen und Bräuche, p. 65 ff., for further on this mythic fiddler.

[The story comes under the formula of the Golden Apple-Tree and the Descent into Hell, in which the stupid third brother figures as hero. Cp. Grimm, No. 57; Hahn, *Griech. u. Alb. Märchen*, No. 70, with notes, ii. 296.]

Pp. 22, 26. Winterkolble and Kruzimügeli.—The popular poesies of different peoples have closely related and often almost identical features, as a comparative mythology might show. On the other hand, we find in a single people certain features in its legends and tales so often iterated, that we may regard this as evidence of the remarkable unity of that people in its thoughts and images. As an example we chose the tests of memory by the devil—a feature not forthcoming in Grimm, so far as I know. In this connection the number seven, sacred in antiquity, frequently appears.

Winterkolble is from German Hungary. Kruzimügeli from the vicinity of Reichenau, in Lower Austria. The following are variants:—

In a story from Mödling (L. Austria), a witch provides Mirzl (Mary) with fine clothes for the Court ball on condition that she hands over to her the first child; if not, Mirzl must know in a year's time the witch's name. A courtier sees the witch in the forest, singing over a caldron a refrain, in which she exults that the queen does not know she is called *Siperdintl*. And thus the young queen is enabled to save her child.

In Göpfritz in der Wild (L. Austria), they tell that a labourer's daughter wished to become a countess. The devil offers his help on condition that she shall know his name in seven years' time. After the wedding, she wrote the name down and placed it in her prayer-book. But the billet was lost. The seven years were nigh at an end, when a hunter told her he had seen a black dog in the forest leaping backwards and forwards over a pit, exulting that the countess knew not his name, Spring-hunderl. Thus again the devil lost his hold on her.

In Loschütz the tale runs: 'Once a princess was beset by the devil. He promised to depart, if in three days the daughter or another should know his name. In vain they asked all the learned men of the kingdom. Then a shepherd boy saw in the castle garden a little green man hopping from one tree to another, rejoicing that his name, *Ziliguckerl*, was unknown to the princess. Then the boy released the princess from the devil, who departed with curses.

A man from Neulengbach (L. Austria) told the following: A king was sick and wretched. His queen at length repaired to the devil, who appeared to her in the form of a dwarf hunchback, and promised to help the king, provided she should know his name, Felix, at the end of ten years. The king recovered, but

the name was forgotten; but shortly before the expiry of the period, a peasant saw a hunchback dancing about a fire, and singing, 'My name is Felix,' etc. The queen richly rewarded the boor for the information.

In a story from Gablitz (L. Austria) the devil promises a peasant girl she shall be queen if at the end of seven years she knows his name, Kolerberabritscherl. In Zingerle, Kinder u. Hausmärchen, 1852, i. 36, he is called Purzinigele; ii. 278, Kugerl; in the Haus-chronik, i. 102, Kruzinigele.

The return after a certain period, especially seven years, might perhaps lead to a mythic basis, with which the popular fancy has further played.

In Kuhn, Westfälische Sagen und Märchen, p. 223, the devil is to return in seven years, to test the prentices' work. In his Norddeutsche Sagen, No. 265, the wild hunter Hackelberg comes every seven years, on his day, through the land; every seven years the wild hunter passes over the seven mountain towns (No. 499). Cp., further, Kuhn's illustrations in the Westfäl: Sagen, i. 126, ii. 150. The world-hunter, who hunts round the earth every seven years, has a double in the 'everlasting Jew' (cp. ib. 499, Vernaleken Alpensagen, 83).

That gods, especially Wuotan and Donar, were identified [on the introduction of Christianity] with the devil is well known; also that the devil appears in all manner of forms, even in those of elves and dwarfs. [The devil is Jewish, Christian, Pagan, atheistic, elvish, gigantic, ghostly, all of them. Grimm, Mythol. 938.]

The wild-hunter points to Wuotan, but the following tale from Tyrol (Aineth in the Iselthal) plainly points to Donar, who, in the native poesy of the people, is o de la companya del companya de la companya del companya de la companya del companya de la companya de la companya de la companya del companya de la companya del companya de la companya de la companya de la companya de la companya del companya de la companya de la companya de la companya de la companya del companya de la companya del companya de la

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darkened, they saw the hunter coming from afar. The hermit went to meet him, but the 'Tunda' stepped aside, and climbed the very tree where the peasant was hid. He was heard muttering—

'Give that Mandle may not know
I by name Spitzbartele go.'

In joy the boor sprang from his hiding-place, and cried, 'Ho, ho, hullo! think'st I know not how thou'rt called? Spitzbartele is thy name: 'tis out!'

There was a horrible rattling in the oak. The 'Tunda' was gone, and had left a fearful stench behind. All the green twigs were gone, and a withcred stem remained, to be seen to this day.

P. 29. The Blackbird.—From Friedland, in Bohemia. For similar features cp. Grimm, Nos. 9, 25, 49; Bechstein, No. 103 (the Seven Ravens); 206 (the Seven Swans). [The raven seems to stand in the like relation to Odhin or Wuotan in German lore that he held toward Apollo in ancient Greek superstition. In Saxony the night raven passes through the land from time to time like the wild hunter, of whom he is a metamorphosis. Cp. Kuhn and Schwartz, Norddeutsche Sagen, No. 222.]

P. 37. The Seven Ravens.—From Weisskirchen, on the Danube. Cp. the last tale, also Bechstein, p. 103; Grimm, No. 25. According to a tale from near Pisck, in Bohemia, the maiden came first to the moon, then to the sun, at last to the tempest-hut. Other variants in L. Austria, Bohemia, and Moravia, widely diffused. In one of these, instead of the ravens appear seven fieldfares, which, by means of seven good works of the sisters, are relieved one by one. [See further on

blackbirds as enchanted beings, Kuhn and Schwartz, Norddeutsche Sagen, Nos. 71, 197, 247.]

- P. 41. The Dog and the Yellow-Hammer.—From Bohemia. Cp. Grimm, No. 58, Gödeke's Mittelatter, 629. [Such tales seem to form a counterpart to those of grateful animals so widely diffused. Here cruelty to an animal is by an animal avenged. Cp. the emphasis laid on kindness to animals in tales of Buddhist origin, Benfey, Panschatantra, i. 208.]
- P. 45. The Three Wondrous Fishes.—From Moldautein, in Bohemia. A speaking fish in Grimm, No. 85. Cp. the Indian story of Manu in the Mahabharata. [For loud cries accompanying the taking of magic fishes, see Kuhn, Westph. Sagen, i. 323; Norddeutsche Sagen, 35, 126, 180.]
- P. 48. The Marvellous White Horse.—From Weitin, in L. Austria. [For tales of faithful, speaking horses, cp. Wolf, Deutsche Märchen, No. 276; Hahn, Griech. Märchen, No. 6, and ii. 197: the latter a striking parallel in leading features to the present tale, including the gilt finger, for which also cp. Grimm, Nos. 3, 136.]
- P. 54. The Dog and the Welf.—From S. Bohemia. Cp. Grimm, No. 48; Steinhöwel, Buch 2, f. 7.
- P. 59. The Nine Birds.—Seems to be of other than German origin, but is told at Altpetrein, in Moravia. Cp. Schiller's Turandot und Hagen. [See Hahn, Griech. u. Alb. Sagen, i. 54, on the 'Oenomaos and Turandot Formula.' The idea is that of the cruel bride, for whom the suitor risks his life, and who must be won by the performance of difficult tasks or the solution of riddles. It is most widely diffused. Cp. Pelops and Hippodameia, Meilanion and Atalanta, Oedipous and he Sphinx in the Greek heroic legends; Vafthrudnis-

mal and Alvirsmal in the Edda, Brunhild in the Nibelungen. Greek tales: Hahn, Nos. 13, 22, 37, also ii. 257. seq.; Legrand, Contes Pop. Greeques, p. 39. German tales: Grimm, Nos. 17, 23, 57, 62, 64, 71, 114, 134. 165; Wolf, p. 325, et passim; Ey, 50, 64, 113. Wallachian tales: Schott, 13, 16, 17.]

- P. 62. The Wishing Rag.—From L. Austria. In another story the soldiers come out of a knapsack.
- P. 71. The Little Tailor.—From Viehofen, near St. Pölten, L. Austria. Cp. the bold little tailor in Bechstein; Grimm, No. 20. In Part III. W. Grimm shows the wide diffusion of the idea. But all tales vary in important features from the present.
- P. 77. The Tailor and the Hunter.—Also from I. Austria. In a variant from Styria the tailor slew the dragon with quicklime.
- P. 87. The Thirteen Brothers.—From Litschau, in L. Austria. Cp. Grimm, No. 57. Some affinity to the history of Joseph and his brothers.
 - P. 94. Stupid Peter.—From Obersalz, in L. Austria.
 P. 101. The Magic Pot and the Magic Ball.—From

Forbes, in S. Bohemia, not far from the Schweinitz mountain and the town of that name, which is meant in the tale.

P. 107. The Shepherd and the Dwarfs.—From near Moldautein, in S. Bohemia. In a variant from Satzka a butcher's son took service as shepherd. A dragon daily stole a sheep from him. A dwarf presents him with a trumpet and a sword. By these magical means he gets back the sheep. Then follows the usual deliverance of the princess. Cp. the variant in Wenzig, Westslaw. Märchenschatz, p. 116, of the Shepherd and the Dragon; Bechstein, p. 163, the Shepherd and the Serpent.

[In other German legends the mountains stand open with their treasures at midsummer. A shepherd finds a magic flower, and as he breaks it the mountain opens. See Kuhn in Wolf's Zeitschr. f. Deutsche Myth., 1855, iii. 385, and Schwartz, Ursp. der Mythol. p. 177 seq., who explain, according to their favourite theory of storm-clouds and lightning at the turning-points of the seasons.]

P. 116. How a Shepherd became rich.—From Moldautein, in S. Bohemia. [For references to treasures hidden in the earth, guarded by dragons or other dæmonic beings, cp. the Nibelungen, Grimm's Mythol., 345, 930; Schwartz, Ursp. der Myth., 65 seq.]

P. 122. The Three Boxes.—From Neunkirchen, L. Austria. [For the idea of the Three Marvellous Dresses, in other relations, see Hahn, Griech. Märchen, ii. 226, 298.]

P. 124. For One Kreuzer a Hundred.—From Mödling, near Vienna. Of comparatively modern origin.

P. 127. The Goat and the Ant.— From Adamsfreiheit, in S. Bohemia. In Lienz, Tyrol, the fable runs: A peasant had but one goat, which was very vicious, and always strayed from the pasture, and hid itself. In wrath he had to kill it, but the point of the knife broke off, and remained sticking in its neck. Then came the boy with his 'bax' (a curved pocket-knife), but this also stuck. And so with the kitchen-knife, with its nine magic crosses. The goat fled into a bear's den, and threatened him on his return with the three knife-points; also a fox and a wolf. At last an ant braved the knife-points, bit the goat on the tail, which fled. Bigness is not everything, thought the ant. Cp. Grimm, Reineke Fuchs, cclxi.; Märchen, No. 36.

- P. 130. The Wild Cat.—From L. Austria. Similar stories of godfathers frequent in Austria. Cp. Grimm, Nos. 42, 44; Bechstein, No. 68.
- P. 138. The Stolen Princess.—St. Pölten, L. Austria. The scenting human flesh, an old pagan feature. Cp. Grimm, Mythol., 959; Märchen, No. 29, p. 185, etc. In a tale from Buchelsdorf, Austrian Silesia, a peasant takes money from the devil, who would wed his daughter in return. When twenty-four years of age, the devil came in a fiery chariot drawn by four dragons. Afterwards a soldier comes forward to release the daughter.
- P. 145. The Wonderful Deliverance.—From Wsetin, in Moravia. Another echo of the far-diffused legend, referring, according to W. Müller, Niedersächs. Sagen, p. 389, seq., to Wuotan's journey to the Underworld. Some reminiscences of the folk's book 'Duke Ernest,' and on the adventurous expedition of a knight to Palestine, to the coast of which the history of the faithful lion is transferred. [The Crusades extended the legendary cycle on all sides. C. Otfried Müller, Prolegomena, 284.]
- P. 151. The Outcast Son.—Various mythic features here combined into one tale. In the legend the wearing of the crown is told of vipers. My authority had it from Krain and Stein; but I see too late that it comes from a printed source, Schott, Wallachische M., No. 19. The wish to possess a maiden 'white as snow, red as blood,' is found in Servian tales. Cp. Wuk, No. 19.
- P. 155. The Two Sisters.—From Lundenberg, L. Austria, borders of Moravia. Frau Holle appears here, not as in Grimm, No. 24, but as guardian of souls. Cp. Grimm, Mythol., 246 ff.; cp. Bechstein, 62; Wolf's Zeitschr. f. Myth., i. 42. [Cp. on the sheltering

and counselling old wife, Hahn, Griech. Märchen, Nos. 3, 22, 48, 49, 51, 64, 68, 69.]

P. 161. Moriandle, Sugarkandle.—From near Rötz (Karlsdorf), in L. Austria.

P. 167. The Three Eggs.—From Obersalz, in L. Austria.

P. 170. The Wondrous Tree.—From L. Austria. Seems to be a primeval reminiscence of the ages of the world and the world-tree. Cp. Grimm, Mythol., 755; and, for the days of the week, ib. 113, Schott, Wallach. M., pp. 147, 241, 249. A tradition from Windschau, in Moravia, tells of a prince carried to Paradise on a marvellous white horse. He tasted of precious fruits and then returned. But he found everything changed, he had been 300 years away, and having partaken of earthly food, became a 'stone-old' man, and fell to pieces.

P. 174. The Seven Roes.—From Obersalz, in L. Austria. On the one-eyed, cp. the author's Mythen u. Brauche, pp. 24, 52, 83. [Cp. Schwartz, Ursp. der Mythol., 267 ff., who explains this feature from the flashing of the lightning (?) as a celestial eye.]

P. 177. The Dwarf Delivered.—Another story from Rohrbach, L. Austria, has variations from this. Something went wrong at the christening of a young prince; and after some time a dwarf told the king that a wizard would fetch the prince in fifteen years' time, in order to ensure with noble blood the continuance of his magical power for fifteen more years. He was in fact borne into the air by a winged horse. Hans with his two brothers offered to deliver the lost prince, and came into the Underworld dwelling of the wizard. here he found the prince. They took the magic rod

of the sleeping giant, and came happily to the king's court. The prince would shortly have been sacrificed.

P. 182. Besom-Cast, etc.—From Leobendorf, in L. Austria. Cp. Grimm, No. 65, Allerleirauh. [Cp. also for the Tyrol, Zingerle, No. 16; for Lithuania, Schleicher, p. 10; Neapolitan, Basile, Pentamerone, No. 16; Greek, Hahn, No. 27 and ii. 224 ff.]

P. 188. The Sounding Tree.—From Büchelsdorf, in Austrian Silesia.

P. 193. The Cobbler's Two Sons.—From Rothal, in L. Austria. Cp. Zingerle, i. No. 25. [Cp. Grimm, Nos. 60, 85; Hahn, No. 22; the 'Dioskouroi formula,' ib. i. 51 and ii. 214 ff.]

P. 200. One Strikes Twelve, etc.—From the Leithagebirge. For riddle-stories cp. [Grimm, No. 125]; Müllenhof, Holstein. Sag., p. 503 ff. [Hahn, No. 27 and ii. 210.]

P. 206. Hans Guesses Riddles.—From L. Austria. In a variant from Göpfritz in der Wild: 'A cup out of an old horse's head, a table covered with samite from the bones of a beast, a table-cloth from a horse's skin.'

P. 210. The Three Millers. - From Bruck, in Steiermark.

P. 214. The Three Tusks.—From Cicenic, in Bohemia. In a tale from Haugsdorf, in L. Austria, the tasks are: To drive seven hundred hares to the pasture and bring them back in the evening; to conquer fourteen knights on one day; in twenty-four hours to plough a field of 'ten thousand yoke.' A knight with an esquire, bandy-legged and humped, performs the tasks. In another tale, he shall wed the king's daughter who discovers how she daily wears out a pair of iron shoes. [On the watching of a flock of hares

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cp. Grimm, No. 165; Wolf, p. 138; and other tasks, Hahn, No. 37. In a variant of the latter (ii. 243) the tasks are: (1) To guard ninety-nine hares,—this the eagles make their care; the princess bids her maid steal one, but the eagles take it from her; (2) to sift all kinds of corn; (3) to fetch up the ring she casts into the sea, which is done by ants and fishes; (4) to recognise her in the bath among other women, and the queen of bees makes this possible.]

- P. 220. Piping Hans.—From Strasnitz, in the Leitmeritzer Kreis.
- P. 224. Mr. Cluck.—From Müglitz, in Moravia. A like tale from Saladorf, in U. Austria, told by a shepherd, who, with the help of a giant, gains his end in three contests. The 'stupid' one then surprises his father in a harmonious manner. Mr. Cluck is the devil.
- P. 232. Hans with the Goitre.—From Neuhaus, in L. Austria. Cp. Grimm, No. 44; 'Godfather Death.' The rôle of the ape is a peculiar feature.
- P. 241. The King does not Believe Everything.— From Ollersbach, L. Austria. On lying tales cp. Grimm, iii. pp. 193, 336. In a story from Hrottowitz in Moravia, a princess caused it to be made known that she would wed the man who could lie so that it should seem incredible to her. Then there were suitors! When the upper ranks had lied all they knew, a prentice announced himself. He said he had gone up to heaven hopping, had gone from sun to moon and back, had made a rope of sawdust, then fell into the mud, etc. When he told the princess he had seen her father in heaven keeping swine, she said that was not true, and she had to become his wife. [Cp. Hahn, Nos. 39, 59.]
 - P. 244. The Present of the Wind.—From Schönberg,

in Moravia. Cp. related tales in Grimm, iii. (on No. 36); Bechstein, 140.

P. 248. The Fisher's Son.—From Bruck, on the Mur. Primeval features and echoes of the German heroic Sage, cp. in Grimm, No. 92. Very similar, a story from Hallersdorf, near St. Pölten. The boy escaped from the devil, met a white horse who could speak, and bade him deliver a bewitched castle. For this purpose, he must, in his nineteenth year, take a swan and go with it into the great hall, and pluck it. All the feathers became human beings, the last a princess, and the swan himself was the king. Then the wedding of the fisher's son with the king's daughter was solemnised. After some time, he sought for his parents, but he was to tell nobody of the beauty of his wife, because she was still under a spell. He caused himself to be announced to his parents as king of the crystal mountain. mother recognised him by a mole. Thoughtlessly he spoke of his wife's beauty. The latter appeared to him in a garden, and said he would not see her again before he had worn out a pair of iron shoes. He set out, and on the road gained a pair of mile-boots, and a cloak that made him invisible. He asked the Wind the way to the glass mountain. Only his wife was at home, and she hid him from her wild husband. The latter, the stormy Wind, smelt human flesh as he came in. on the mile-boots, the fisher's son followed the Wind, who hastened to the castle to close the windows, while the princess held her wedding fête. Wrapped in his cloak, the prince went into the dining-room, where the princess declared to the guests she had found her old 'key.' Another tale from Loschütz, in Moravia, runs that a carter, in order to get his horses forward, vowed in

writing to the devil, whatever he should find lying before his door. And that was his only son. The latter, at the end of twenty years, went into hell and tore the promise from the devil. A similar tale is told in Neuriegers, near Horn. According to another from Ostra. in Marchfeld, the son must get on board a boat, and resign himself to the waves to get rest from the devil. On an island he met a princess, who wedded him. when she learned that he was a 'halterbub,' she forsook him. With the help of some magic articles he recovered her. [For tales of children vowed to the devil after twelve years, see Grimm, No. 92; Hahn, Nos. 5, 54. Cp. Grimm, Nos. 31, 55, 181; Wolf, pp. 199, 247, 377; Schleicher, p. 91; Schott, Nos. 2, 15. In the Norse Faröerlied, a giant has won a peasant's son from his father at play.]

P. 253. The Judas She-Devil.—From the Egere Kreise Analogous to the wise women (Nornen), 'Born of nine mothers,' Heimdall (Grimm, Mythol., 213) must be: Hyndlulied, 34. His horse is called Gulltopr (Grimm, Mythol., 214, 304). On the black hen, cp. the author's Mythen u. Bräuche, 261, 292. This and the immediately following tales form an important group: they are echoes of the old heroic Sage. The horses of the Underworld god, and the lame old horse who counsels the hero, are constantly to be met with in the folk-tales. Cp. Hahn, Griech. Märchen, index, s.v. Pferd. The black hen, and its slaughter, is probably a reminiscence of ancient sacrifice. In harvest customs of North Germany, a wooden cock is fastened to a wreath made from the last sheaf and flowers; this is called Greifen, and a mirthful game is played with it on the stubble. Kuhn and Schwartz, Nordd. Sagen, 104, 105.]

P. 262. The Three White Doves.—From Rothschov, in Bohemia. A divine character lingers in the three old women. Similar features in Wenzig, 69 ff. In a variant from St. Pölten, a boy, brought up with a hunter, sees three maidens bathing in a pool. He takes the garment of the youngest, and hastens away. The two others, in the form of doves, pursue him. Before his dwelling stands the youngest princess, and begs for her garment. She agrees to marry him. At a fitting opportunity she recovers her garment, and flies off as a dove. He seeks her; a devil's mother takes him into her service, and he has to watch twenty horses. He is helped by other beasts. At last he recovers possession of the princess.

On the swan-maidens, see Grimm, Mythol., 399; the Völundarkvidha of the Edda. By taking away the swan-garment, the Walkyries are forced to become domestic women. Cp. Schwartz, Ursp. d. Myth., 194. [Cp. Hahn, Griech. M., i. 55, on the 'formula of clothesrobbery and the swan-maiden: tales Nos. 15, 25, 54, 10, 101; also German tales; Friedrich of Suabia; robbery of veil in Musaeus (Grimm, Mythol., 193); Wallachian, Schott, No. 19. Hahn says the idea is wanting in the old Hellenic legends; but the veil is in fact found instead of the garment. On the first siege of Troy, Hesione is taken captive with her brother, whose life is granted at her request, on condition that he first becomes a slave, and that she buys him at any price she pleases. She then takes the veil from her head and gives it in exchange for him, and hence he was called Priam, Apollod., ii. 6. 4; cp. the veiled Alkestis, arg. Eurip. Alk. The veil is analogous to the cap of invisibility, a symbol of an Underworld being; the removal of it signifies a return to the land of the living. And the idea of marriage is associated with the return to the upper world, frequently.]

P. 274. The Maiden on the Crystal Mountain.—From Göpfritz in der Wild, L. Austria. Cp. with this frequently recurring mountain the Hall of Flames of the Norse legends. It is clear that we have here to do with the Walkyries, with Brunhild. The pile of logs also points the same way. Cp. Rassmann, Heldensage, i. 146 ff., 151; Grimm, Mythol., 781, 786; Wenzig, 112; Stier, Ungar. Märchen, 39.

In Anschwitz, Poland, the tradition runs: A king, lost in the forest, uttered a curse. Then molten masses rolled together and overwhelmed the king; thus arose the crystal mountain, which none can see because the sun stands before it. The son seeks him, and has to assume the serpent form for three years in order to release him. The daughter also sets out, but is banished to the top of the mountain, where she must sew at a shirt, and when it is ready, the world will end. When the wind pipes she sings, and when it rains she sheds tears. The weather depends on her disposition.

Tales of a glass mountain are frequent in Moravia. All agree in this, that a maiden is hidden on the top in a castle, guarded by a dragon. One succeeds, after many toils, in releasing her.

P. 280. How Hans finds his Wife.—From near Humpolec, Bohemia. The same theme as in the three preceding. The horse is ridden up the crystal mountain, as in Grimm, No. 93; cp. Rassmann, Heldensage, i. 405. On the competition, ib. ii. 188 (Gunnar's bridal journey); cp. the features in the 'Drummer,' Grimm,

No. 193; Zingerle, i. No. 37; Cavallius's Schwed. M., No. 8.

In Moldautein, Bohemia, the story runs: A young gardener sees three maidens bathing in a pool, their white garments and veils lying on the shore. They clothe themselves, change into swans, and fly away. Another time the gardener seized one of the veils, that of the fairest. She begs for it, and, on his refusal, consents to marry him. The mother gives her back the veil, and the bride flees in swan form to the crystal mountain. Where is it? the gardener asks the swallows, the crows. the doves. A limping cock-pigeon tells him that the mountain is smooth, none get up without wings, and there dwells a witch with three daughters. The gardener fled away on the pigeon. On the surface of the sea he had to drop an acorn; immediately there grew an oak, on which the bird settled with its burden. This took place twice on the sea. Alighting on the firm land, the bird said: 'Thou hast a hundred days more,' and vanished. Then he saw two giants contending for a saddle, which could bear any one whither he wished. The gardener used it, and in the flash of a moment was before the castle of his bride. The witch set him some hard tasks. Out of a hundred maidens he had to choose his bride, and succeeded, because she gave him a sign. Both fled in twenty-mile boots; but the witch took forty-mile boots, and pursued. Transformations protected them, and they got safely home.

P. 287. The Drummer.—From the Tabore Kreise, in Bohemia. A variant in Grimm, No. 193. One feature appears to be Magyar, cp. the glass hatchet in Georg v. Gaal, p. 53. Widely diffused is the wandering to sun, moon, and wind; in Magyar lore it is found, e.g., in

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Gaal, in the tale 'The Serpent-prince;' in Servia, Wuk, No. 10. Cp. Grimm, Märchen, iii. 156.

P. 294. The Fairest Bride.—From Nikolsburg, in Moravia. Grimm, Märchen, iii. 155, 156. Even the elements are active, and reward his fidelity; the sun seeks for him, as Titan for Démétér, yearning for his lost daughter. Cp. Grimm, Mythol., 670; Märchen, 25, 88.

P. 304. The Cursed Garden.—From St. Pölten, I. Austria. Another variation of the legend of Siegfried. On the brothers and their frustrated cunning, see Rassmann, Heldensage, i. 865 ff., 176. The Nibelungenlied and the Thidriksaga tell how Siegfried was slain at the hunt; in the present tale this is frustrated. [Cp. Hahn, Griech. Märchen, s. v. Siegfried and Gärten.]

P. 310. The Enchanted Sleep.—Parallel to the foregoing. Cp. Grimm, No. 60, and the Thorn-rose. A young Austrian from Auschwitz, near Krakow, told me the tale; he had heard it in Polish. From the same source I have another, varying in several particulars, and preserving the dark relation of Sigurd to Brunhild and Kriemhild. The leading features are:—

An old mother advised a sick king to have the golden water and the three golden apples fetched from the golden mountain. The eldest of the three sons goes, inquires of an old man of a hundred years, who directs him to one twice as old, and he again to one 300 years old, who is lord of the birds. But the prince treats the latter discourteously, and is taken by the old man to an Underworld prison. So also fared the second son. Finally the third son, held to be stupid, sets out. He treated the third old man with great respect. He of 300 years asked the birds where the desired things

were; none knew but the eagle. But dragons and other monsters must first be overcome; and only from twelve to one was there safety. The old man gives him a boat, and with every stroke the prince makes 100 miles. He comes to the golden mountain, and takes the objects. The seven-headed dragons and eagles were asleep, and he had time to go into a pleasure-house, where he found a fair princess sleeping. He kissed her, and hasted thence, escaping pursuit. He freed his brothers from the old man, but they ill requited him. They changed the articles, and slandered him to his father, who would have had him executed, had not the executioner let him escape. He took service with a merchant, whose only daughter he wedded 'against his will.' One day, as he went out, his wife observed a picture set in diamonds on his breast. Nothing, however, came of this. Meantime a letter came to the king from the princess, demanding that he should send the son who had found the golden apples, etc. ways led to her, a golden and a silver. The eldest son chose the silver road. Not far from the castle a child was carried to meet him, which hid its face from the stranger, and the prince was rejected. So fared the second. Then the princess caused it to be proclaimed that if the father of the child were not found within fourteen days, the land would be ruined. Then the king learned from the executioner that he had spared the youngest, and he was produced. He took leave of his wife, and rode on the golden way, not caring that his horses' hoofs were spoiling it. When the child was brought to him, it smiled and stretched out its hands. Soon he was wedded to the princess: to his first wife he sent much money, and permitted her to wed another, for he

was now a prince, and had a princess to wife. Cp. Uhland in *Pf. Germania*, viii. 75 ff.

To avoid repetitions, I point out here only the variant features in other tales collected by me.

In a tale from the Egere Kreise, the youngest brother (stupid Hans) has to fetch for his sick father a nut from the wondrous tree, the other two not having returned. In the company of a wolf he comes to the castle, sees the sleeping princess, and writes his name on a table. He frees the brothers, and is by them betrayed. The princess appears at last in a silver chariot before his dwelling.

The same from Satzka, in Bohemia. The brothers take black horses, but the youngest white ones, to fetch white water from the white castle.

The like from Teschen, in Austrian Silesia. The liver of a bird of Paradise is to be fetched. On the back of a black goat he seeks the castle. Against the advice of the goat he takes of the food, and cannot return. In punishment he has to bring the ring from the finger of a giant.

Another tale from Friedland has the same features as Grimm's, No. 97 (The Water of Life); cp. iii. 177 ff.

In a tale from Scheibs, L. Austria, the herb of life has to be fetched. Here, too, three brothers. The youngest, in company of a dog, inquires of the birds of the forest, the mice, the bees. The latter, sent by a woman of the forest, bring a twig.

The like from Krems, etc.

[Cp. Hahn, Griech. M., Nos. 26, 51, 70, 72; Schott, Wallach. M., 26; Schleicher, Litau. M., Nos. 26, 27; for Water of Life, further, in Hahn, ib. Index, s. v.]

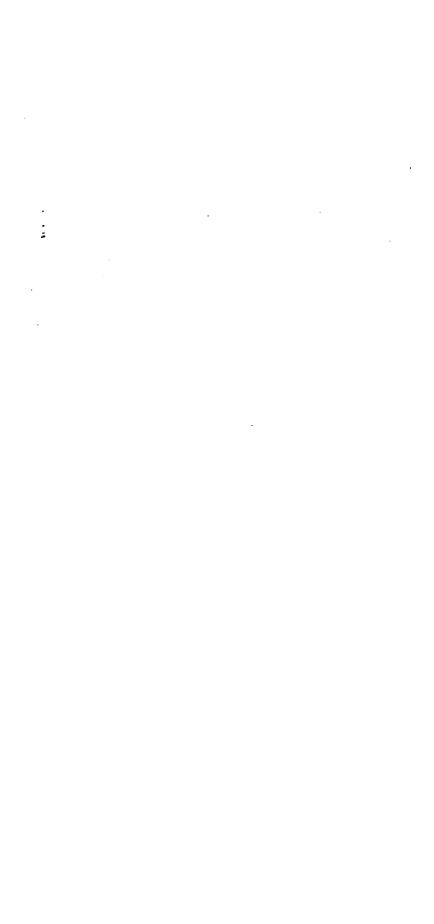
P. 316. The Three Princesses .- From Müglitz, in

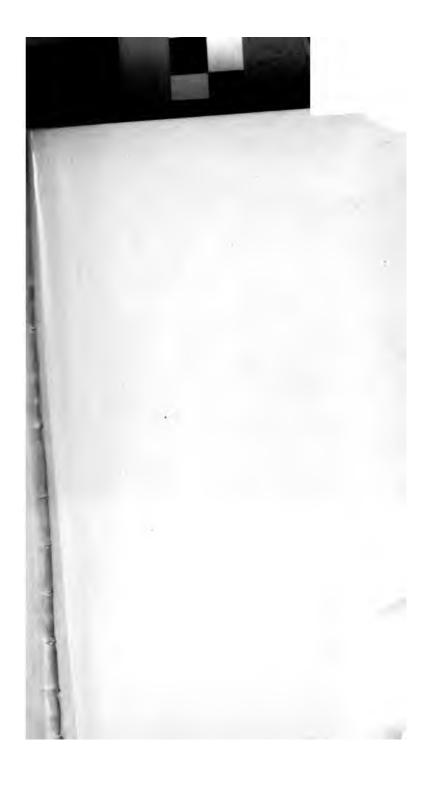
Moravia. On the ring, cp. Rassmann, i. 405, and the Hildebrandslied.

In a second tradition from the same place the deliverer put his companion to the test by laying heavy stones in the basket. They soon let him down, and suddenly let go, so that they thought he was dashed in By the help of an old man he got to the upper world again. Others tell that the princesses were carried off by dragons.

Pp. 322, 325. The Suitor and The Mouth Cure.—Both from Rötz, in L. Austria.

- P. 328. The Bead Merchant.—From Rodinggersdorf, near Horn, in L. Austria. Cp. the story from the same place in the author's Mythen, p. 30, and notes to No. 9.
- P. 331. They Dance to the Pipe.—From Haugsdorf, in L. Austria.
- P. 335. The Hopping Night-Cap. From an old hunter in Prein, near Reichenau, L. Austria.
- P. 341.—Sepple with the Golden Hair.—From Neun kirchen, L. Austria. Related to the author in the Bohemian Croat dialect.





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